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NOTICE.

ON and after the 1st of July, Notices of Births, Marriages and Death will be charged $1 each insertion.

Such Notices cannot be inserted in this journal unless endorsed with the name and address of the person by whom they are sent.

Yokohama, 25th June, 1874.

Notes of the Week.

THINLY attended as was the meeting held on Wednesday to receive the report of the Committee on Municipal Affairs, it has at least had the result of confirming the suspicion that a change to municipal self-government would be eagerly welcomed by a large majority of the foreigners settled in Yokohama. The excellent report prepared by Mr. Wilkin forcibly but most fairly dealt with the evils of the present municipal organisation. It does not satisfy the foreigner, it is irksome and thankless to the Japanese, a source of worry and incrimination and—worst of all—the cost of its administration exceeds the available revenue. That the Japanese will to some extent improve upon their present organisation is by no means improbable; they have the spur of emulation, and the desire to avoid the reproach of failure to impel them to do so; but that they will succeed in satisfying requirements which must in the main be foreign to the national character and habits is more than problematical. Their present position is no doubt anomalous, and it is conceivable that if a mode of escape from its perplexities and money troubles, which should not be derogatory to their dignity, were offered to them they would not decline it. The foreign body is evidently inclined to think that the change is worth trying.

A noticeable feature of the meeting was the apparent reluctance of a gentleman who has been throughout identified with the progressive movement of this settlement to endorse the Chairman's recommendation to assume self-government. *Quieta non movere* was not wont to be Mr. Smith's môt d'ordre, and his expression of satisfaction with things as they were was received with astonishment, if not incredulity, by those who remembered him as an ardent reformer. His allusion to the tardiness of those who undertook to negotiate for the lighting of the Foreign Settlement must, however, be qualified with this explanation: the gentlemen charged with the office had to deal, not with foreigners but with the Japanese *concessionaire*, and as a monopolist is generally equal to his position these negotiations were neither easy nor rapid. It is much to their credit that with everything against them they should have succeeded so well.

WITH the view of eliciting the sentiments of the community upon the subject of the Resolutions adopted at the Public Meeting held on the 28th instant, the Committee have decided to circulate copies of these so as to afford the Public the opportunity of expressing their approval of, or dissent from, them. It is to be hoped that all Members of the Community will be prepared to respond to this invitation of its opinion on the important matter at stake.

STIRRED up from his hybernation by the rumours of change *Keizai* has resumed his pen with a result which reminds us of the Archbishop of Granada's sermon after his apoplexy. He could scarcely have pleased his opponents better. They may fairly allege that, not only has he been asleep, but that his reasoning has all the originality which a nightmare suggests.

IT has been our custom to present our readers with an annual review of the silk business transacted in Japan at the close of the commercial year on the 30th of June. But it was obvious that a statement following so closely on the conclusion of the season could furnish only an imperfect and inadequate retrospect of its operations in their entirety. Comprehending all the business initiated in this, the purchasing market, for the year, it of necessity excluded that essential information which a knowledge of its out-turn in Europe could alone supplement, and without which the résumé lacked completeness. In the retrospect, the first portion of which we publish to-day, we have aimed at supplying this defect in our former reviews, the delay in its publication having arisen from the necessity for awaiting the results of the late shipments to the home markets.

THE week has been singularly barren of news and with the exception of a report, which is by no means well authenticated, that the final reply to Okubo would not be given until the 20th instant, we are in possession of no intelligence of interest.

APART from the pressing necessity for greater security there seems no better reason for the creation of a purely foreign Municipal Government for Yokohama—one which shall not only reign but govern also—than the unison of sentiment which its establishment may be expected to produce in due time. For here, it must be admitted, the disunited constituents of society sadly need some harmonising influence to fuse and solidify them into a more congruous whole. Small as is the foreign community it is split into some half dozen nationalities, kept apart from each other by the absence of reciprocity of sentiment—and possibly of taste; by mutual indifference—we will not say ill-will—and by imperfect sympathies. Worse than all this, the rivalries of trade, acting upon particles so indisposed to harmonise, tend still further to keep society in this atomic condition. That any human power on this side the Millennium will succeed in reconciling national antipathies or in readjusting their disarrangement is hardly to be thought of. But that which cannot be radically cured may be largely palliated, and the mutual antagonism which arises from a condition of society in which each man is his own administrator only, disappears when a common estate, by the fitting management of which all may be rendered more comfortable or more prosperous, invites general cooperation for its successful organization. And this we venture to think may be expected to result from the establishment of Municipal Government here. That such a Government may in bad hands degenerate into the meanness of the "parochial" is not impossible. But that its normal tendency

will be to render international society more cohesive, and to develop a stronger feeling of mutual interdependence, confidence and good-will is we think far more certain.

Signor Chiarini has chartered the barquentine *Victor* for the conveyance of his equestrian troupe to San Francisco.

We publish a letter from Mr. Parry on the subject of solid buildings from which it appears that he dissents from our conclusions in favour of concrete constructions. The subject is fortunately one which even the uninitiated in the mysteries of the constructive craft may approach without timidity. Earthquakes, and their results are, unluckily, matters of experience since the creation, and it may be presumed that such countries as have been most subject to their visitations have defended themselves against their consequences in the manner which experience proved to be best. But we have no evidence that Japan has enjoyed unusual immunity, nor that it has exercised unusual care in securing it. The earthquake of 1855 had, if we may trust tradition, as many victims as that of Lisbon. Mr. Mallet in his History of the celebrated Neapolitan Earthquake of 1857, (quoted in the paper to which Mr. Parry alludes), has defined the causes of some of the lamentable consequences of that catastrophe. Absence of cohesion in the material employed would appear to be the chief.

"When," he says, "the masonry consisted of round lumpy "quadrated ovoids of soft limestone, the whole dislocation "occurred through the enormously thick ill-filled mortar "joints and almost all buildings thus formed fell together "in the first movement in indistinguishable ruin. Where "the masonry was of the best class, and such as would be "so recognized in England, the buildings thus constructed "stood uninjured in the midst of chaotic ruin. Some ex- "amples of this will be found in the second part, none more "striking than the Campanile of Atena, a square tower of "90 feet in height and 22 feet square at the base, in which "there was not even a fissure while all around nearly was "prostrate. Indeed it was evident that had the towns "generally been substantially and well built, or rather the "materials scientifically put together, very few buildings "would have actually been shaken down even in those "localities where the shocks were most violent. Thus the "frightful loss of life and limb were as much to be attribut- "ed to the ignorance and imperfection displayed in the "domestic architecture of the people, as to the unhappy "natural condition of their country as regards earthquakes."

And the same paper instances a lighthouse of solid masonry at Manila, which withstood a violent earthquake when almost the entire town was levelled. Much may be said upon this subject, and we trust Mr. Parry may be *en force* to encounter so high an authority as Mr. Mallet, since in their conclusions they are obviously at issue. Meanwhile we may remind him that the heavy roof to which he ascribes the earthquake-proof qualities of Japanese temples may be found also in China, and was probably introduced from that country. In this supposition it could not be an adaptation to local circumstances.

The Athletic Sports, yesterday and to-day, have passed off most successfully. The weather was all that could be wished, the attendance numerous and the competition spirited.

Mr. Pauncefort delivered his promised recital at the Temperance Hall last evening for the benefit of the funds of that Institution. The room was well filled, and the frequent applause evinced the appreciation of a gratified audience.

Of the "Christmas Carol" and Mr. Pauncefort's treatment of its weird but genial narrative we have already written at such length that we forbear to reproduce our commentary upon what we deemed an artistic solecism. We held, and still hold, the importation of the attitudes and mannerism of the stage to be an unpardonable inconsistency, that the effects of voice, eye and gesture are alone permissible to the "reader", and that to overlay the simplicity of elocution with the embellishments of the theatre is to destroy the unity of the reciter's art. But having said this we have exhausted what little there may be hostile in our judgment. Mr. Pauncefort's interpretation evidenced a thorough comprehension of his subject, a nice discrimination of its shifting and manifold scenes and a mind in perfect harmony with its delicate touches of feeling, broad humour, or weird description.

The little "jeux d'esprit" "Music hath Charms," and the "Jumping Frog" were afterwards delivered. The skill with which Mr. Pauncefort treated the humorous situations of these drolleries is sufficient evidence that it is no poverty of natural resources that has determined him to interweave the florid graces of the theatre with the simple elocutionary effects of the reader. Nothing could have been better than the humour with which these stories were given and nothing could have been simpler. An artist who possesses such thorough artistic consciousness can afford to discard the adventitious effects borrowed from the theatre and to rely upon the simplest resources. We are glad to learn that another reading will shortly be given.

The San Francisco *Bulletin* publishes the following description of a typhoon experienced by the *Vasco de Gama* on her last passage hence to America.

The steamship *Vasco de Gama*, which arrived this morning, left Yokohama on the afternoon of September 13th. Early on the morning of the 14th, when about 70 miles east of Cape King, Japan, the *Vasco de Gama* encountered a typhoon which lasted for eight hours—the wind blowing in very great force. During the gale the steamer was boarded by a sea which, coming broadside, stove in the side glass of the skylights, the water filling the cabin to the depth of two feet. To-day visitors can see on the lounges in state-rooms and settees in the cabin marks of salt-water mould, while the side glass of the skylights has been replaced with batten.

Captain Rice, of the *Vasco de Gama*, reports that the steamship *Colorado* sailed for this port, from Yokohama, on the morning of the 12th of September. He thinks she probably encountered the same typhoon, with probably more severity, but possibly may not have met with it at all. The reports current about the city to-day of the probable loss of the *Colorado* have, therefore, no foundation in fact, while the probabilities favour her safe arrival at this port. She is a side-wheeler, is one of the best sea-vessels the Pacific Mail Steamship Company have, and had lately been recoppered in Hongkong. She is commanded by Captain H. G. Morse, who has had long experience in the trade, and has a reputation for seamanship and ability surpassed by none. He was in command of the steamship *Alaska*, when she encountered a terrific gale off the coast of Japan last November, and brought her safely to this port. The usual time of the *Colorado* from Yokohama to this port is twenty-two days, which makes her due to-morrow. It is probable however that if she has had bad weather and had to burn coal freely, that Captain Morse, in view of a diminished supply, may repeat his policy, as in the case of the *Alaska*, reduce the consumption of coal so that coming slower he may have a supply for any emergency that may occur on the remainder of the voyage. Should such be the case, the *Colorado* may not be expected for three or four days over her schedule time.

We have been thus particular in our inquiries, as the reports of the probable loss of the *Colorado* have obtained a circulation that, as stated above, had no basis of fact.

The *Colorado* is a side-wheeler, and high out of water, not easily boarded by seas, while the *Vasco de Gama* lies deep in the water, with low decks, the place of bulwarks being supplied by iron stanchions connected with iron rods, so that any sea that rises above her hurricane-decks comes aboard. The *Colorado* is similar in build to the *Great Republic*, which some months since encountered a typhoon in company with the *Vancouver* (a sister ship of the *Vasco de Gama*), off the Straits of Van Diemans. The *Great Republic*, sustained no damage, while the *Vancouver* was badly strained, damaged her cargo, and had to be docked and have extensive repairs on her arrival at Hongkong.

SHIPPERS OF SILK.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Tanais*, despatched on the 27th October:—

	Marseilles.	London.
Hecht, Lilienthal & Co.	110	—
Aug. Heard & Co.	14	—
Sté. Fco. Japonaise	25	—
Wilkin & Robison	—	25
Ziegler & Co	—	33
Sundries	109	159
	258	217

Total Silk.....475 Bales.

1,914 case Silkworms Eggs.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

YOKOHAMA STATION.

27th October, 1874.

Statement of Traffic Receipts for the week ending Sunday, 25th October, 1874.

Passengers.....34,881.	Amount.....	$8,320.45
Goods and Parcels.....		957.78
Total.....		$9,278.23

Average per mile per week $515.40.
Miles Open 18.
Corresponding week in 1873.

Passengers,.....28,588.	Amount.....	$8,543.34
Goods and Parcels		898.99
Total		$9,442.33

A correspondent writes from Foochow to the *North China Herald*:—

The Viceroy of Fuhkien left Foochow for Amoy on the 5th instant, and was accompanied from the city to the suburbs of the settlement by the foreign drilled troops under Col. J. P. McMahon. At a review the other day, the Viceroy was so pleased with the rapid advance in foreign drill which these troops had made, that at his special request fifty of them accompany him to Amoy as a body guard. The *Herald* is informed that the departure of His Excellency has been hastened by apprehended disturbances in the neighbourhood of Changchow-foo, and that the Formosan difficulties are in no way connected with his visit. The neighbourhood of the foreign settlement was visited by the severe gale of the night of the 29th ult. A native passenger boat is said to have been capsized near the foot of Kushan, resulting in the loss of thirty-two lives. At Pagoda Anchorage the weather was so boisterous as to interfere with the loading of cargo. The S.S. *Antenor* was to have left on 30th September for Hongkong and London, but was detained, owing to the impossibility of taking her cargo—which had been promptly shipped off—on board. If the weather moderated, she would leave at noon on the 1st. The ship *Thyatira* is also weather-bound at Pagoda Anchorage.—The Market Report of the 2nd inst., states that the tone of the tea market was unchanged, but that transactions have been on a more moderate scale.

M. JANSSEN and the majority of the party of French *savants* took their departure on Thursday, in the French Corvette *d'Estrées*, for Nagasaki. M. JANSSEN left behind him two of his party, and it is not improbable that he may himself return here, if on enquiry he finds Nagasaki less likely to suit his purpose. We should have thought that, taking into consideration the fact that the scientific party from the the United States is already located in Nagasaki, M. JANSSEN, by remaining in Kobe, where the ground is unoccupied and where fine weather is at least as frequently experienced as at Nagasaki, would have reduced the risk of both the French and American expeditions turning out failures. There is, it would appear, one other course open to M. JANSSEN. He has a double set of instruments and a numerous *suite*, and it has been suggested that by dividing instruments and observers, stationing part here and part at Nagasaki, he could considerably lessen the chances of failure resulting from an unfavourable state of the the atmosphere. Then again, were his party so divided, arrangements might be made for the exclusive use of one of the telegraph wires, by which means, if one division had a favourable sky and the other the reverse, suggestions could be made or instructions given during the observance of the various phenomena. The great expense which the foremost nations of the world are incurring in these expeditions proves the importance with which the scientific observation of the approaching Transit of Venus is regarded by astronomers, and makes it highly desirable that the possibilities of failure should be reduced to a minimum.

The gale which commenced to blow from an early hour yesterday soon made it apparent that Kobe's Autumn Regatta would have to be postponed. The sea was so rough that rowing was out of the question. But if "Rude Boreas, blust'ring railer," has taken his departure, leaving fair weather in his wake, our Aquatic Sports will come off at 2 p.m. to-day—mails and other disagreeables notwithstanding.—*Hiogo News.*

NAGASAKI.

The climate of Formosa has affected the health of a considerable number of the Japanese soldiers, and is considered, at certain seasons of the year, very unhealthy to any except the natives. The Japanese steam-ship *Madras* arrived from Taiwan on Monday morning, bringing 600 troops, the most of whom were suffering from fever and were in a pitiable plight. They were landed on the same day and taken to the various places prepared for their reception. An eye-witness to the landing of the troops describes their condition as most distressing. Some could scarcely walk, others were taken in jinrikishas, and more carried by coolies. They will shortly be sent to Hiogo, remain there for a time, and will then be forwarded to the province of Satsuma, which is the province they belong to. These troops belong to the first regiment that was dispatched to the island, and their present condition is attributed to the many fatigues they have been compelled to endure for the last six months, coupled with the great heat that prevailed for such a long time. Fifteen died in the *Madras* during her passage from Formosa. The soldiers left behind are reported to be pretty free from disease, their health having improved much with the change in the weather. Mr. Cassel, the American officer who our readers will recollect accompanied the expedition, has also returned, in the *Madras*, for the benefit of his health.

Since the above has been in type, we learn that the order for taking the sick troops to Hiogo has been countermanded, and they will be discharged here. The *Madras* left on Wednesday night for Tientsin. The *Delta* we hear is also expected daily from Formosa, bringing all the dead bodies of the soldiers that have died there.—*Rising Sun.*

SHANGHAI.

A gentleman who recently visited Woosung, sends us the following note regarding the works in progress there. Being interested in the science of fortification, and desirous of inspecting Chinese works, the writer tried to find the new Woosung forts, but seems to have been unable to discover anything more than the entrenched camps recently formed for the accommodation of soldiery, and the river embankment works which we referred to some months ago.

"From the Lighthouse there seemed some indication that the Chinese had not been idle during the past twelve months, and I can assure you I contemplated what appeared to be a fortification with no little interest, but I was doomed to disappointment, as you will see. About 400 hundred yards from the river, inland, has been erected an earthwork enclosure 300 feet by 400 feet, the height being about 10 feet, width at bottom 6 feet, and at the top 2 feet; the top of the wall has embrasures about a foot wide and the same depth, and some 3 feet apart. The Chinese live inside the enclosure, in tents, and the place is in a filthy condition. There is a very liberal display of flags; I never saw so many in so small a space before. I imagine it is intended to have a ditch cut around the place. The men, as far as I could see, are not armed. Another enclosure by the side of this, a little farther inland, needs no description, as it is similar in all respects. Workmen are employed driving piles along the edge of the river and filling in with earth; of course this simply means improving the embankment; what may be done after the embankment is made good, I do not know. At one place, for the length of about 100 yards, piles are driven in three tiers abreast, the space besween them being filled with earth and stones. Perhaps the intention is to erect a fort above this, but there is no present indication of it."—*N. C. Daily News.*

REVIEW OF THE JAPAN SILK TRADE FOR THE SEASON 1873-1874.

THE real point at issue in a commercial venture being its success or failure, a review like this to be at all valuable should convey to the reader some idea of the aggregate profit or loss of the past season. It should aim at being as conclusive as the inventory from which a merchant derives the certainty of his own profits or losses. But such a review is an impossibility. All the invoices cannot be brought into comparison with all the account sales; while the review is being written, much of the silk shipped in the course of the season remains unsold and the realization of a stock cannot but be a matter of great uncertainty. All the reviewer can do is to compile, as intelligently as may be possible, the prices at which silk was bought and sold and bring the prices apparently realised at home into juxta-position with those paid in Japan during the corresponding period. We use the word "juxta-position" designedly and the following table will show why we refrain from employing the term "comparison" as one likely to mislead.

TABLE—A.

1873-1874.

Price Current in Yokohama from July to June with cost laid down and sold in London and in Lyons.	Price Current in London from September to August with parity in francs at the rate of fr. 2.80 per kilo for 1 sb. per lb.	Price Current in Lyons from September to August.
	HANKS.	
Extra to No. 1.		Extra 10/15d.
Highest ...$740.....28/6.....79		78
Lowest ... 680.....26/3.....78		60
Average ... 700.....27/ 75		68
Best No. 1 and 2.	Superior No. 1 to 2.	No. 1 Belles 12/16d.
Highest ...$700.....27/ 75	26/ 73	75
Lowest ... 640...—24/9.....69	21/6 60	57
Average ... 670.....26/ 72	24/ 67	66
Good No. 2.	Good No. 2.	No. 2 Bonnes 12/16.
Highest ...$660.....25/6.....71	24/ 67	72
Lowest ... 570.....22/3.....62	19/6 54	53
Average ... 620.....24/ 67	22/3 62	64
Medium No. 2½ to 3.	Middling No. 2½.	No. 2½ Medium or Bonnes Courantes 12/18.
Highest ...$620.....24/ 67	22/ 62	68
Lowest ... 530.....20/9.....58	18/ 50	50
Average ... 580.....22/6.....63	20/6 57	60
Common and Inferior No. 3 & 4.	Common No. 3 to 4.	No. 3 Courantes 10/22.
Highest ...$570.....22/3.....62	21/ 59	60
Lowest ... 450.....18/ 50	16/6 46	46
Average ... 510.....20/ 56	19/ 53	55
	Inferior No. 4 and 5.	
Highest	19/ 53	
Lowest	15/ 42	
Average	17/ 47	
	OSHIU.	
Extra.		Extra 14/18d.
Highest ...$720.....27/9.....77		72
Lowest ... 670.....26/ 72		63
Average ... 680.....26/3.....73		68
Best No. 1.	Superior.	No. 1 16/20d.
Highest ...$700.....27/ 75	23/6 66	70
Lowest ... 600—...23/3.....65	20/6 57	57
Average ... 650.....25/3.....70	22/4 63	65
Good No. 2.	Good No. 2 to 2½.	No. 2 18/25d.
Highest ...$660.....25/6.....71	21/ 59	67
Lowest ... 560.....22/ 61	18/ 50	54
Average ... 600.....23/3.....65	20/ 56	61
Medium No. 2½ to 3.	Middling No. 2½ to 3.	No. 2½ 20/30d.
Highest ...$600.....23/3.....65	18/6 52	61
Lowest ... 520.....20/6.....57	16/ 45	50
Average ... 550.....21/6.....60	17/6 49	54
Hamatski all round.	Hamatski all rouund.	Hamatszki and other Oshius 25/50d.
Highest ...$510.....20/ 56	17/ 47	55
Lowest ... 400.....16/ 45	14/6 40	42
Average ... 460.....18/3.....51	16/ 45	47
	Inferior Oshius No. 4 and 5.	
Highest	16/6 46	
Lowest	14/ 39	
Average	15/ 42	

In the above table the average prices paid in Lyons for Hanks No. 2 and 2½ which form the bulk of the shipments appear to have lost 3 fr. per kilo; but in reality the loss has been at least equal to the loss on the Extra kind and No. 1. The fact is that the Hanks classed in Lyons as No. 2 and 2½, constitute better assortments than those coming under the same denomination in Yokohama. The fact that the average prices of Hanks No. 2 and 2½, being fr. 64 and 60 in Lyons against 22/3 and 20/6, (parity fr. 62 and 57) respectively in London, suggests that the same denomination is applied in each market to different kinds of assortments, and so it is; the same silk cannot of

course, be 5 per cent. cheaper in London than in Lyons. Again, the great difference between the average prices of common and inferior Japans in London and their apparent cost is partly explained as follows. In the first place the lowest prices paid in Yokohama for the lowest sorts are not always quoted. Were it so their average cost in the above table would have come out somewhat lower. On the other hand the lowest prices paid in London are applicable in a number of cases to silks of the old stock. In fact, there are at all times to be found in the warehouses inferior silks which, by dint of time, wear and tear and long neglect, have actually sunk one or two grades below the usual range of classification and can only be forced on consumption by exceptionally low prices. It further appears from the above table that the highest class of Japans are shipped to the Continent, and the lowest to England. This is a fact which requires no further comment than that the merchants best know their own business. A careful analysis of the respective conditions of the British and Continental markets would, no doubt, confirm the fact, that in the long run a market is sure to be supplied in the manner which best answers its special requirements. At the opening of the season Hanks, Medium or No. 2½, were quoted $570 to $590 (say at 4s. 6d. and frs. 5.80, 23s. to 23s. 9d. or frs. 65 to 67). By a gradual and almost uninterrupted ascending movement they reached $600 to $620 in December; but meanwhile an inverse movement in the rate of exchange, which had then fallen to 4s. 3d. and frs. 5.40, was bringing cost to a rather lower level than in July. In January, prices commenced to recede and, without any great fluctuation, reached in June the lowest point of the season viz: $520 to $550 (say 20s. 9d. to 21s. 10d. or frs. 57 to 60), exchange during that period ranging from 4s. 3¼d. to 4s. 5d. Some of the shipments made in the earlier part of the season are reported to have done well; but on the whole if we place the prices realized at home in contrast with cost, although we make due allowance for the obscurity of the terms of comparison and the uncertainty as to the time of sales—although we acknowledge that the word "cost" has a different meaning according as the shipments are made against orders, as consignments *pur et simple*, as consignments on joint account, or else as returns—we cannot but come to the conclusion which, moreover, is in accordance with the general impression of the trade, that the past season has been an unprofitable one.

Now, to inquire into the causes of that failure leads us to ask: What are the motives by which shippers were actuated? Among those motives the considerations derived from the special conditions of our own market are few. Early in the season we knew that there was no reason to expect our export to exceed the average of the past eight seasons, estimates varying from 14,000 to 16,000 bales. In October we knew that the export of silkworms' eggs was to be one million and a half cards or more. As soon as our conclusions on these two points were formed they were communicated by telegraph to our friends at home, who thus knew all that Japan had to say on the question of production. Besides this, indeed, what has the Yokohama market to say of its prices and stocks that can in the least influence prices at home? The many elements which enter into the calculation of what is likely to be a safe cost at a certain future time are not all of them at the disposal of the merchant on this side. That calculation has to be made at home, and then, right or wrong, the conclusion is forwarded to Japan in the shape of a telegram the motives of which only become fully intelligible to the receiver some weeks later. Meanwhile merchants here have no other alternative than to act at once upon the advice received or to lose their opportunity. From this we must infer—First, that since Japan is connected by telegraphic lines with Europe the trade of this port has virtually passed under the control of the home markets; and secondly, that the larger share of responsibility in the success or failure in the operations of a season now rests with our advisers at home. Nothing could be more idle or unjust than to write upon this subject in a spirit of recrimination; all that remains to be done is to discover by the light of past events what were the disturbing elements of calculations in a question affecting a common interest. The causes of our common failure are all to be found in germ, in letters dated from home as early as July, 1873. There we read that while the silk crops were giving signs of increased production the consumption of silk manufactures was decidedly decreasing; that decrease, however, was considered as a transient fact; a revival, all the more vigorous from its delay, was expected to take place in October; speculation was dead; importers were left to the tender mercies of consumers; "Extra and best Hanks" were still quoted fr. 75 to 80 (say at 5.57 $670 to $700), but prices were tending downwards. October came and not only the expected improvement was not then realised, but month after month the bad symptoms pointed out in July gained in intensity. Letters from London and Lyons dated one year later, viz.: July, 1874, brought evidence that fashion was still patronizing woollen and mixed goods, that silk hats, ribbons and trimmings were neglected, that in fact there was as yet no sign of a return to the consumption of silk goods in the world at large. They only expressed a vague hope, that the low price to which the raw material had fallen after the crop, would eventually turn the scale in favor of silk manufactures. They quoted good No. 2 Hanks fr. 55 to 57 (say at 5.36 and 4/3 $520 to $540 or 20/2 to 20/10), and the telegrams received at the same time advised a further decline. In fact, the last blow had been dealt by a large crop both in Europe and in China, and the only wonder is that it seems to have been so generally unexpected.

China after having exported 85,000 bales of silk in 1856-57 had been brought to the brink of ruin by the rebellions of 1858 to 1861; but the dark times over, her wonderful recuperative powers had manifested themselves by her production steadily tending to resume its former importance. A large crop in China was therefore the natural sequence of known facts. In Europe the elements of a large production were known to be in existence. Not only had the imports of Japan silk-worms' eggs nearly reached one million and a half of cards, but the previous crop having shown that the silk-worms' disease was tending to disappear a strong impetus had been given in Italy and in France to the reproduction of the Japanese and European breeds of silk-worms. There again was the prospect of a large crop entirely contingent upon two months of fair weather in the spring of 1874.

To say that the silk-worms' disease is disappearing is perhaps the incorrect expression of a real fact. The disease is not dying out spontaneously, nor has any specific cure been yet discovered; but two great bacologists CORNALIA and PASTEUR have shown how to discriminate between healthy and diseased worms, and the scientific method of elimination which they and their followers have made popular had already been attended by unmistakable success when the ignorance of or disbelief in that success vitiated the opinion of many merchants on the prospects of the ensuing crop.

Among the political and financial events recorded in the course of the past season there is scarcely any that can be said to have had a direct influence on prices; but from first to last a deep and latent feeling of insecurity no less than the extraordinary decrease in the consumption of silk manufactures contributed to deprive the silk trade of one most useful auxiliary by keeping speculation out of the field in England as well as on the Continent.

II.

We have already noticed that one cause of misunderstanding between the export and the import market, as far at least as commercial circulars, public telegrams and general advices are concerned, arises from the absence of an uniform classification. Such a classification expressed in numbers, with specifications of quality and size, would of course be very desirable; but it should not be forgotten that in a market like this, where the parcels on offer are so mixed that they can never be truly valued till after they have been thoroughly inspected, general quotations can never reach the accuracy of actual invoices.

Besides this there are occasionally other causes of misunderstanding upon which we will offer the following remarks: Some merchants at home will expect a verdict at the beginning of the season upon the quality of the new staple, they will order monthly shipments narrowly limited in point of quality, size and color. Some again will send out orders for 500 or more bales at once, expecting them to be shipped in two or three consecutive mails; they will ask for specifications of stocks and expect offers to be telegraphed from this side for certain silks at the current rate; they will complain "of the infinitesimally small "division of the small parcels in which Japan silk too "frequently comes forward." (See Messrs. Durant and Co's Circular of January 1873). In other words they would deal with Japan as they do with China, and their disappointment arises from having apparently not fully realized the radical difference which exists between the modes of production of those two countries. The cause of that difference may, we should think, be traced to one main fact.

In China climate or custom or both forbid drying and storing cocoons. In Japan the silk-grower invariably dries his cocoons. This he does for two reasons: first, that if he failed to do so as soon the crop was gathered the parasite of the silk-worm, the *uji*, might destroy a portion of his cocoons; the second, that the climate allows him to preserve them in good condition from the beginning to the end of the season. From this difference flow many and important consequences. In China, cocoons having to be reeled within a very limited time after the crop, silk is the fuller in size in proportion as the crop has been the more abundant. In Japan, the silk-grower having a whole year before him may reel when he pleases and produce as fine a thread as required. In China, (we speak of the North), the whole crop is rendered available for commercial purposes at the beginning of the season. From the hands of the peasant it soon passes into those of wealthy native merchants who sort it into large parcels, marking these with "chops" which in some cases are known to be a guarantee of the quality of the silk. Hence the large assortments, the large stocks and the ample facilities afforded by the Chinese merchants for rapid and important transactions. In Japan silk-reeling goes on during the greater part of the year. The inferior cocoons are generally reeled first. The peasants bring their silk made up in hanks or otherwise to the nearest market town, and there sell it to the native dealers. The dealers are, with few exceptions, men of small means and their operations are limited to a few piculs at a time. Between the native dealer and the foreign buyer there is generally no other intermediary than the native broker established at Yokohama, who is a paid agent of the former. It is through his agency that silk is either deposited with native bankers against advances in Yedo or Yokohama, or sold at this port. All the silk coming to Yokohama from the interior has to pass through Yedo. Yedo is thus a sort of reservoir which feeds the Yokohama market; but that portion of the capital which is opened to the foreign trade has practically no silk market at all. It will easily be understood that under these circumstances no general opinion can be formed at the beginning of a season as to the quality of the "new silk" and that supplies are so governed by settlements as to prevent the growth of the stock. Operations in silk extend over a longer portion of the season than in China; the parcels on offer are small, intrinsically mixed, never equal to the musters, and divided among a host of petty dealers. These parcels form what we call our stock, a stock the component parts of which from want of all kind of methodical arrangement can never be identified, and which is constantly shifting. Finally the loss of time, disappointment and trouble which attend the purchase of silk in Yokohama not only make the buyer's task much more difficult than it is in Shanghai, but limit materially the range of his operations.

Some of the preceding remarks apply principally to that large class of silks called 'Hanks'; the parcels of Oshiu silks are quite as mixed, but are larger and mostly under the control of a few wealthy native bankers and merchants.

In 1867-1868 the proportion of each description of silk in the total export was as follows:—

Hanks	7,876 Bales,	say 64	per cent.
Koshiu	738 „	6	„
Oshiu	2,238 „	19	„
Sodai, Echizen, Mashta, &c.	1,354 „	11	„
Total	12,306 Bales.		

For the past season the proportion has been:—

Hanks	11,192 Bales,	say 77	per cent.
Oshiu	3,050 „	21	„
Sodai, Echizen and other sorts	278 „	2	„
Total	14,520 Bales.		

This comparison shows for a period of six years, an increase of 13 per cent. in the proportion of Hanks. This increase is caused by the Ida, Koshiu, Hida, Echigo, Miharu and several other sorts having gradually been reeled finer, and made up in Hanks. The proportion of Oshius has scarcely been altered. As for the Sodai, Echizen, Tamba, Tajima, Nagahama and other descriptions sometimes called Taysaam sorts, they have been unable to stand the increasing competition of China silk in the European market, their quality has not improved and they are at present mostly consumed in Japan.

The question which this state of things naturally suggests is this: Is there any prospect of improvement in the quality of Japan silks, in their assortments and in the present mode of transactions between natives and foreigners? Great expectations have been entertained of the introduction of the European methods of reeling. In fact, there are at present in this country two steam "filatures" only. The first is a splendid establishment (300 *bassines*) esta-

blished and managed by the Japanese Government at Tomioka in one of the richest of the silk districts of this island. The second (100 *bassines*) is the property of a wealthy association in the province of Tosa. Under the supervision of two thoroughly competent French specialists both establishments have been a success as far as the production of a good thread is concerned. Some of the Tomioka "raws" have been sold in Lyons on a par with the best French raws. The Tosa raws being the produce of somewhat inferior cocoons were classed with second order Italian raws. As regards their monetary success, the financial management being exclusively in Japanese hands and under exclusive Japanese control it is difficult to express an opinion with any degree of confidence. Of all industrial undertakings in Japan a steam filature would *a priori* appear the most plausible. However, the lesson taught by recent experience seems to be this:—An industry which must necessarily be established in the interior of the country, which has to import from Europe every article of its machinery, to invest in a month or two the large capital required for its yearly supply of raw material, to derive that raw material (the cocoons) from a country unprovided with good roads, to pay a high rate of interest, to train the working class into methods of labour entirely opposed to deeply-rooted tastes and habits, to pay comparatively dear for a foreign supervision, jealously and injudiciously excluded from all financial control, such an industry we should say labours under difficulties now unheard of in Europe. Its progress must necessarily be slow as long as the absence of adequate guarantees deprives it of the succor of foreign capital and foreign methods of administration.

We should not omit to mention another silk filature (90 *bassines*) also established by the Japanese Government in Yedo. It is not a steam filature. The *bassines* are disposed in pairs, each of which is heated by one stove. The whole mechanism is of wood, and has been made by native artisans. The mode of reeling has been borrowed from one of the Italian schools. The motive power is a hydraulic wheel, and the whole establishment reflects great credit on the Swiss gentleman who planned and executed it. It has already been extensively used as a model by individuals or small associations for whom steam appliances were out of reach, but who still wished to improve at a moderate expense their own antiquated methods of reeling. Of course a perfect thread can only be produced in any quantity out of large stocks of well-sorted cocoons and by steam reeling under very strict supervision. Nevertheless the State has done good service by popularising a system which leads to an intermediate stage between the old Japanese and the modern European filature. It may reasonably be expected to assist Japan silks in rivalling the 2nd and 3rd classes of French and Italian raws.

Now, if we consider how closely the advance of agriculture, commerce and arts in any country is dependent upon good government and the progress of sound education among the people, we must not be too sanguine in our expectation of any speedy improvement in that branch of trade which is the special object of this review. On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that the Japanese Government is well aware of its importance as being one of the chief sources of wealth for the country and has spent large sums with the object of bringing silk reeling to a higher state of perfection.

(To be concluded in our next.)

REVISION OF THE TARIFF.

A TRANSLATION of the second of the series of Essays now being published by the *Tokio Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, entitled "The necessity of making foreigners resident in Japan observe the taxation laws of the Japanese Government," will be found elsewhere. The Essay treats of a subject of high importance; one upon which the Japanese have latterly been taught to think that they were grievously wronged when the Treaties were first made; one on which much of their future prosperity depends; and on which it is not only important that they should form sound views, but that they should rest content with those views, and see that, as they really are sound, they must be accepted as belonging to the constitution of things, any attempt to subvert which keeps them in a state of restlessness destructive of all solid effort in the direction in which alone progress and prosperity can be achieved. Nothing can be worse than this condition of mind. It paralyses the disposition to undertake and persevere in work upon which permanent success really depends, and it embitters the mind with the accumulated burden of a thousand fanciful troubles, each of which would have been swept away as it arose by one who had wisdom enough to perceive and fortitude enough to accept with patience a condition of things which experience has shewn to be best calculated to ensure and consolidate progress. The impatience of the Japanese with the Tariff as fixed by and appended to the Treaties reminds us of the condition of mind of a person not very happily married living under easy divorce laws. The desire of escape becomes the dominant passion of the mind. Every little trial which daily life brings with it, every occasion on which some slight divergence of views has to be reconciled, becomes a source of violent and bitter contention. The necessity for mutual concession, accommodation and adaptation is lost sight of, the good points on both sides are obscured, the evil points magnified, and the facilities afforded for separation are actually answerable for the condition of antagonism which ultimately renders it necessary. Far otherwise is it with laws which show a profounder knowledge of the constitution of human nature, and are based on more solid views of the real welfare of society. The tie being virtually irrevocable, the mind of each party to the contract becomes habitually influenced by desire to make it work as harmoniously as possible. Conflicting views are thus reconciled or avoided; mutual concession produces mutual good-will; passing discords are resolved into permanent harmonies, and peace prevails where otherwise strife or even open rupture would have been inevitable.

In the Essay now before us the writer complains that the Japanese Government is unable to increase or diminish by a single cent the duties on its exports or imports, without first having obtained the consent of foreign Governments; and that though this might be no ground of complaint in the relations existing between a sovereign and a dependent state, it is a grievous injury in the relations between states exercising equal and independent sovereignty. He adds that such relations have never been heard of between one civilized nation and another. But we must ask his pardon for saying very frankly that, in this, he betrays an entire ignorance of the fact that Commercial Treaties, of which a Tariff constitutes an integral and essential part, are very commonly made between civilized nations, and constitute the basis of their commercial intercourse. Such treaties bind, and long have bound, more or less, European States, and it is only recently that the plan of limiting their operation has been

adopted. In this, therefore, the Japanese are in the same position as other nations, and not only have no reason to complain, but, however little they may see the advantage of it, are benefited by the fact that through the instrumentality of this Tariff their trade is placed upon a sound, instead of upon an unsound, because capricious, footing. The writer of this Essay is evidently far from apprehending the truth that the wealth derived by a nation from an extension of its trade is far greater than that which simply takes the more tangible and calculable form of so much more customs revenue. The settlement of this tariff, it should be remembered, as of all the tariffs England makes, was based upon the conviction, which all experience has verified, that under a low scale of duties trade is most rapidly developed, and that this development is a necessary advantage to both sides. The policy of England on this subject—a policy which is gradually modelling that of all civilized nations—is to reduce duties as low as possible, and to resort for her revenue to direct taxation, as far as the prejudices of her people permit, and as is compatible with the intention of forcing every individual to contribute a fair proportion towards the taxation of the country. Japan was not overreached by the Foreign envoys who made the first Treaties. Indeed, she enjoyed the advantage of having those Treaties, and the Tariff appended to them, made by men who had given great study to commercial questions, and who, though in spite of the commission of some minor errors, at least understood the general principles of commerce sufficiently well to guide them in such simple negotiations.

In his backward glance at the old condition of things which existed in this country, the writer of this essay frankly and somewhat naively allows that had no Tariff been appended to the Treaties, the Japanese would soon have ruined the trade by imposing duties on it which their ignorance of commercial legislation would have suggested and rivetted. The admission is so candid and honourable to the writer of the essay that we shall take no more advantage of it that to ask him whether it would now be wise to permit a tariff under which trade has flourished at least to a respectable extent, to be altered by those who only a few years ago would have ruined it by tampering with that tariff? It is a long time before men get rid of errors which form the very colour of the tissue of their minds. The "Almost thou persuadest me" which was as much as Paul's powerful eloquence could extort from Festus while under its spell, soon cooled down to its normal temperature, and we may rely that the constant and conflicting changes in Japanese Cabinets would leave for a very short time in peace an instrument which was supposed to be at once a means of inflicting injustice on Japanese trade, and a talisman by which the revenue might be raised as the genii was by the rubbing of Aladdin's lamp. And what stability could there be to trade under such a varying tariff as that contemplated and even proposed by this writer? Where would be that general and cherishing warmth under which it now constantly shoots out new branches and produces new fruit? Every change would have come as a frost, and a poor stunted shrub or crooked stump would have been the only relic of what was once a promising and vigorous sapling.

When we come to the next paragraph of this essay we find the writer falling into far more serious errors than those to which we have already alluded. He speaks much of the indifference with which the Japanese Government and people regard the duty imposed on silk in England, and censures them for this indifference. It is almost cruel to tell him that he is beating the air. There is no such duty, never was, in the Japan trade, and never will be. With the exception of her Tea, which we do not consume in any appreciable quantity, all Japanese produce enters England free, while Japan taxes every article we send her. We are wise enough not to retaliate on this, because we know that though we might add a little to our revenue by doing so, we should assuredly injure our trade, which is the real source of our wealth. And the true wisdom of the Japanese would consist in throwing themselves fearlessly on the same principles as those which England has adopted and to which she has trusted—with no doubtful result, while they are looking backwards after a freedom which, to resume the old analogy, is like that of the unhappily married man in the days of his bachelorhood, or forwards to the separation which easy and foolish divorce laws bid him hope will terminate his misery, they are embittering the present and paralysing their future. The Western powers will not permit crude and foolish experiments to be made, the results of which could be predicted by a schoolboy. They know that a moveable Tariff would produce a trade liable to spasms, convulsions and atrophy. Theory and experience have combined to settle this question, and if the Rulers of this country do not know how to protect its interests, the intertwining of them with our own ensures the support of both.

No. It is not the low export or import duties which are at fault in this matter. It is the system of control, and guilds, and monopolies which prevents trade flourishing in this country more than it does and as it should. This is the root of the matter, and it is of no use to look for it in other directions. Get rid of these obstructions and we should soon see how actively and vigorously the country would spring forward.

THE NECESSITY OF MAKING FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN JAPAN OBSERVE THE TAXATION LAWS OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

[TRANSLATION.]

Tôkiô Nichi-nichi Shimbun, No. 832 *of Oct.* 23, 1874.

The export and import duties at present paid by foreigners at the open ports are regulated according to the tariff established by the Treaties between the Japanese Government and foreign Governments, and this certainly cannot be called the taxation law of the Japanese Government. Whatever arguments the Japanese Government may see fit to maintain, so long as they are restrained by the stipulations of the Treaties, they are unable to increase or diminish the duties by a single cent without having first obtained the consent of foreign Governments. In the case of a dependent or subject state such a Treaty might be well enough, but it is not one that ought to exist in the case of an independent country standing on a footing of equality, and it has never been seen or heard of in any civilized country. Our having accepted Treaties so opposed to justice and right, is owing to the fact that up to the date, now more than ten years ago, when the Treaties were signed, the inexperienced Japanese government, was, as is the case throughout the East, overreached by the envoys of foreign countries, but at the same time we must not be too ready to accuse foreign governments of unreasonableness in not hastening to make their subjects submit to the taxation laws of Japan.

Let us cast a backward glame at the subject. Up to the time when the ports were opened, did the Japanese government and people desire to enter into relations with foreigners, or did they wish to keep them away? If the power of keeping the country closed and driving them away by force did not exist, then the natural consequence would be that all kinds of obstacles would be thrown in the way of trade, and a plan of keeping them away would

be gradually wrought out. Had the Japanese government at the period been able by virtue of its own independent volition to increase or diminish the duties at pleasure, it is certain that unreasonably high duties would have been imposed on exports and imports, and trade would have been stopped. Knowing all this, the foreign envoys, from the commencement of the negotiations, kept their attention directed to the decision of this point, and by provisions intended to guard against such a result, prevented our country from making full use of its rights, a policy, which though it is our enemy, demands our admiration.

The maritime customs which are levied upon exports and imports form a part of the revenue, and ought to be paid to the Government by all exporters or importers, whether Japanese or foreigners. It is also a duty to estimate the amount of the revenue, and from time to time to increase or diminish the duties, according to the financial requirements of the country, and with the object of developing trade. Consequently, when the Treaties come to be revised, the Japanese government should at all hazards, refuse to allow foreign governments to have the slightest voice in the alteration of the tariff. Unless this course be taken Japanese commerce will certainly never flourish, and we shall be unable to advance into the regions of wealth by its means.

According to the practice of foreign countries alterations in the tariff are submitted to the Deliberative Assembly (in some countries this is not done), and are only carried into effect after the consent of this body has been obtained, but foreigners are not allowed to have a voice in the matter. But in the case of our tariff the slightest alteration has to receive the sanction of the foreign representatives, which is because we are fettered by the Treaties. What most excites our astonishment is that we have never heard of our Government having addressed a single word of remonstrance to foreign countries with respect to the duties levied by them on Japanese merchandise when imported into foreign countries. We will make this clear by a couple of examples. The English shirtings imported into Japan only pay a duty of five per cent, but the Japanese people and their Government seem not to care one whit what duty is levied on Japanese raw silk imported into England. If a high import duty be levied on raw silk, the Englishmen in Japan must take that into account in making their purchases, and must buy cheaply. So that our export trade is injured by the English import duty. If it is right that they should have a voice in settling our tariff, then the Treaty ought not to be one-sided; and we must have the right of negotiating with the English Government for a diminution of the import duty on raw silk. Is there no way of vindicating the Japanese Government from the reproach that it does not care about the prosperity of the export trade of its own country.

Setting aside mere argument, our earnest desires may be enumerated as follows.

1.—The Japanese Government should abolish export duties.

2.—The Japanese Government should be able to fix the import duties and revise them from time to time. But even in the case of the slightest revision six months notice should be given before it is carried into execution.

3.—The Japanese Government should put prohibitive duties on articles which have a paralyzing or intoxicating effect, such as liquors and tobacco, etc.

The cause of the increase in imports and decrease of exports which have taken place in late years is due no doubt to the largeness of our demands on foreign countries, but export duties, however light, must naturally act as a great obstacle to the export of our products, and this is why we wish the Japanese Government would resolutely abolish export duties.

With regard to the lightness or heaviness of import duties, there are two principles, called Free Trade and the Protective System, and opinions differ as to their respective merits. At the present moment England has arrived at a great pitch of wealth and power by the agency of Free Trade, while the prosperity of the United States is due to the Protective System. The most famous, experienced and erudite political economists, raise their standards on opposite sides, and dispute about the merits and demerits of the two principles, so that we can hardly be expected to offer a decided opinion. But we hope that gentlemen in positions of responsibility will give attention to the actual circumstances of our country, look well to the future, and decide the course which shall be taken.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE BAY OF SENDAI.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF A FEW DAYS SPENT IN SENDAI BAY, IN QUEST OF AN ANCHORAGE OR HARBOUR.

By Captain St. John, H. M. S. *Sylvia*.

Read before the Asiatic Society of Japan, on the 14th October, 1874.

On the 15th of July, after feeling the way slowly into the north west corner of Sendai Bay, I found a partially sheltered anchorage in 3 fathoms behind the northern Island of this numerous group, which are clustered together, according to the Japanese numbering 808.

The coast line of the main Bay, is here deeply indented, and the group of Islands spreading across the mouth of this bight, forms inside, an inner Bay, 8 miles long, by 4 broad, named Matsu Sima, after a village on the main shore. Unfortunately this fine space of protected water is merely a lagoon. At high tide is has about 6 feet of water, pretty uniformly throughout, but at low tide a few boat passages leading through masses of ribbon seaweed, and crossings from the Islands to the mainland are the only open water. The Eastern shores of these Islands (*i.e.* facing Sendai Bay) are thickly studded with reefs, and rocks, making the approach very troublesome Probably there are as many reefs under water as there are above.

The highest of these Islands, is about 300 feet, the lowest about 30, generally speaking 60 to 80 feet is their mean height. They are cut up in a wonderful manner by narrow creeks and tiny inlets which frequently almost join, being only separated by narrow ridges. I am unaware what distinguishes an Island from a rock with the Japanese, but considering those that have trees or herbage, of some kind on them, as Islands the number 808, cannot be far out.

The foundation of these Islands is either a yellow sandstone rock of soft texture, or grey grit, closely approaching conglomerate. The stratification is very distinct and horizontal; a few slips and faults I observed, but they were rare. The surface soil is a rich vegetable mould mixed with an arenaceous compost. At the head of most of these creeks, there are a few small paddy-fields; but excepting these patches there is hardly any cultivation. This of course is easily accounted for by the scarcity of inhabitants. The principal village, speaking of this group of Islands and the main shore, in their immediate neighbourhood—in other words the West portion of Sendai Bay, is Ishibama, consisting of about 100 houses, and built on one of the Islands; it has an anchorage capable of holding half a dozen small vessels, between the Island on which it is situated and the one next to it, and is in consequence considered the Port of Sendai. The next most important village is Sabusawa about one mile from Ishibama, consisting of about 150 houses: it is situated on another Island. Siwo Kama with about 500 inhabitants built in the S.W. corner of the lagoon on the mainland, is 5 *ri* from Sendai, and 2½ from Ishibama, it is the nearest village on the coast to Sendai. From here the produce of that large town and rice district is carried across in small boats to Ishibama and there shipped for further transit in junks and other Japanese craft. Matsu-Sima, a village on the mainland 5 miles west of Ishibama, has a population of about 500. Yöona another village on the mainland, built on a low spit of land, running out from the northern side of the lagoon, produces salt, as well as being a fishing establishment. With the exception of these few insignificant villages, there appears no where else a sufficient number of houses huddled together to deserve that name.

The main land on this (W) side of Sendai Bay is hilly, wooded, and wild; but does not appear to be farmed, as in most parts of Japan, and the patches of cultivated ground are few and far apart. In fact I have never seen, except further north in the province of Mutsu, a more scanty population, and so little cultivation. Ichi-

nomaki is a dirty, dilapidated town, built on the banks of the river Katikami. It commences at about half a mile from the mouth of this river, and extends in an irregular way for three quarters of a mile up both banks. The population I should judge to be about 7,000, all of a very poor class of people. I did, however, meet one or two rice merchants at the head man's establishment at another town near here, which I shall mention presently. There is no Government Official at Ichinomaki, merely a head man, an authority found in even the smallest Japanese villages. The Katikami is a fine and swift body of water, having a width abreast of the town of about 300 yards and a depth of 30 feet, but unfortunately like most other rivers falling into an open Bay, has a bar, with only 12 feet of water on it. It is not a tidal river, the body of water being too great and powerful to allow of its being so; it is also clear enough to be drinkable half a mile up. A few large junks were anchored off the town, but the banks, which are piled and rudely wharfed were crowded with large and perfectly flat-bottomed boats, 50 and 60 feet long by 12 and 14 ft. broad; these boats go 50 *ri* up the river (according to the boatmen) and bring rice from the interior, and when loaded draw about 18 inches of water. When the rice is bring brought down in the Autumn, I have no doubt the town will show a little more life, but at the present time (July) a more torpid place I have never seen in Japan. In the extreme north east point of the Bay, three and a half miles from Ishinomaki, is a fishing village, named Wadanaha, with a population of about 2,000; and very filthy. The stench from the rotting débris of fish, which covered the wharf was sickening. Skin disease, certainly was evidently prevalent. Ichinomaki depends on its supply of fish from this village and as I walked back from the former river I met ponies, men and boys laden with bonito. These fish are caught in large set nets, each net has a look out station attached to it, stuck on poles. The poles, for there are several lashed end to end are 80 and 90 feet long, being erected in 12 fathoms. These flimsy-looking look outs are kept wonderfully steady by large stones made fast to the bottom end of the poles and guyed and steadied at the surface by anchors and cables. There are often as many as half a dozen men on the platform fixed on the top. These things when approaching look like beacons, and even when sufficiently near to make out their real purpose, *i.e.* fishing, any one unless he knew to the contrary would expect they were on a rock, or at any rate in shoal water.

From Wodanaha, the coast of the Bay trends S. E. 11 miles terminating in the bluff point Amitzhania, and after turning the corner runs along to the north, passing Kin Kasan, within half a mile distance. Along this 11 miles of coast which is rough, bold and hilly, there are several Bays, but all open and devoid of shelter. A few miserably small fishing villages are scattered about the extreme ends of the Bay. Occasionally a very small patch of cultivation is seen, but the country is almost all perfectly wild and wooded excepting the Cape itself, and a couple of miles back from it, which is clear and covered with short grass; here small herds of ponies were grazing.

Kin moran is entirely covered with old wood, though none of great size. Pine, Cedar and a few deciduous trees form the chief cover. The Temple is quite small and insignificant and, except for some late slight repairs, would be in a ruinous state. It is ¼ of a mile from the landing place, and from it a path leads to the sharp peak of the Island 1,000 feet high.

Another small ruinous temple and a few rude stone figures of Buddha, some on their heads, some on their shins or on their backs, point to the neglect and little interest, now felt by the Japanese in their old customs. Large figures of the same god were lying about down below. I walked up to call on the priest, but he was at Sendai. The chief individual about the place was a little stout old man, in European clothing. He was very civil, and excessively fond of saki, for he kept sipping at a bottle of the strongest alcohol. I gave him some claret to taste but this he hardly appreciated as much as his own burning liquor. There are numerous beautifully clear streams in the Island, of delicious cold water. The coarse sand at the bottom and sides of these water courses is thickly filled with mica. The ancient custom, allowed no women to land on the Island, but this is not now enforced. The deer which were grazing about the bare slopes as I landed were of old considered sacred, they are not so now.

I was rather amused when steaming across the Bay, and wanted to communicate with a fishing boat. I stopped, and as the small craft passed close to the interpreter hailed the men to come alongside, but though only a few yards off, they paid not the slightest attention to him: he was dressed as a European. I then steamed after them, and got the boat close alongside, but nothing would induce the men in her to have the slightest communication with him. The fact was they did not believe he was a Japanese. I have observed frequently, that they lose weight and respect among their own people when dressed as foreigners. The natives about this northern part of Niphon, appear to me to be a variety of the true Japanese. They are coarser built, higher cheek bones, larger limbed,, and unmistakably darker, this latter peculiarity I take from the small children and women. The men, of course, being mostly fishermen and exposed to the sun and salt water, would naturally soon become very dark.

The north side of Sendai Bay is a low flat Sandy Beach; immediately behind this are rice plains running far back into the interior, so far, in fact that their extent cannot be seen. Some magnificent mountains towered in the extreme blue distance still retaining a quantity of snow on the grand slopes.

I have little else to say regarding this Bay, except that I expected to find a much more rich and populous country than I did, especially about Ichinomaki. Pheasants and Duck must abound in the winter, a few heron, gull (larus argentatus), oyster catchers, (hœmatopus ostralegus), ospreys, (aquila haliœtus) and the common cormorant, were almost the only birds I saw.

On one of the Islands I found a most perfect specimen of the lower part of the trunk of a large tree, petrified in the sand-stone 60 feet below the surface. It was in a small cleft, where the outer portion of rock had fallen out. The large roots were clearly seen, and the position of the tree was evidently such as it had grown in.

ASIATIC SOCIETY OF JAPAN.

A General Meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday evening the 14th October 1874 at the Grand Hotel. There was a good attendance. The Chair was taken by Sir H. S. Parkes, one of the Vice Presidents, shortly before nine o'clock.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting having been read and approved, it was announced that the following gentlemen had been elected Ordinary Members of the Society since the last General Meeting.

The Rev. D. C. Green, Messrs. Kingdon, C. de Struve, Drummond Hay, J. Sichel, G. H. Howell, Hatakeyama, and B. H. Chamberlain. It was also announced that several valuable donations to the Library and Museum had been made, the principal of which, a model of a gold Mine and Works at the Island of Sado presented by Erasmus Gower Esq., was exhibited on a side table and attracted considerable attention from those present.

The author being absent, Mr. Wilkin then proceeded to read the first of the two Papers for the evening, being the first of a series on "The Useful Minerals and Metallurgy of the Japanese." The subject principally treated in this Paper was the manufacture of Iron and Steel.

The Chairman said he was quite sure all the Members and Visitors present would join him in presenting the Society's best thanks to Dr. Geerts for his very valuable and interesting Paper and they would look forward with much pleasure to the future contributions of the series which promised to be a very comprehensive one. He was glad to see many members present who were competent to discuss such an important subject and be hoped they would favour the Society with the result of their valuable experience.

After a few remarks from Mr. Erasmus Gower, who stated that he is at present engaged in putting up some furnaces for the Japanese in the province of Hitachi (Tôshiu) where there is a considerable bed of ironstone, varying in thickness from 18 ft. to 8 ft., and needing only to be quarried:—

Mr. Brunton said that in reference to the process described in the paper as being common in Japan, of keeping pig iron in a molten state for a lengthened time which sometimes extended to seven days, and by this means producing a malleable or wrought iron, he thought he saw in this some resemblance to the principle of the Bessemer process as carried out in England. The Bessemer process consisted of a rapid combustion of the earthy matters and other substances in the iron, and this combustion was obtained by the insertion of large quantities of oxygen into a vessel containing molten metal. Although the paper did not mention the means by which the Japanese maintain the iron in a melted state, it might be supposed that it is done by blowing air through it with bellows, but whether this was the case or not, it seemed to him that this practice of the Japanese was similar in principle to the Bessemer process, as it maintained the iron for varied periods at very high temperatures, and so consumed the impurities contained in it.

Professor Ayrton remarked that in the Paper a description had been given of the method of making steel employed by the Japanese. Could the reader inform him whether any of this steel was used to make steel wire of? He (Prof. Ayrton) had lately required steel wire of different thickness but the Kogokuriyo had stated that they had been quite unable to obtain any for him, even of foreign manufacture. Now if Japanese steel wire could be procured anywhere this difficulty might be overcome.

In reply to this, Mr. Wilkin said that he was not the author of the Paper, but was not aware that any steel wire was manufactured by the Japanese though he believed copper wire was to some considerable extent.

Professor Ayrton then continued:—Mention had been made of the badness of Japanese copper wire. Some of it had at any rate one good quality about which he would say a few words. It would probably be known to many of those present that copper wire was largely employed in the manufacture of telegraph instruments and sub-marine cables. Now the wire, like all other conductors, offered a certain obstruction (or resistance as it is called) to the passage of the electric current, but this resistance might, for the same length and thickness of the wire, be immensely diminished by increasing the purity of the copper employed. Up to the laying of the first Atlantic cable it was imagined that any extra resistance in the conductor of a cable, produced by impurities in the copper, could be compensated for by increasing the battery power employed. Before, however, the construction of the second Atlantic cable of 1865, Sir William Thompson (whose name had lately been prominently brought before the Society in Captain Belknap's paper on the Deep Sea Sounding in the Pacific) was led from purely theoretical considerations to conclude that the commercial value of a long sub marine cable could be doubled if pure copper wire were substituted for the impure wire previously employed; for he showed that the speed of sending, or the number of words that could be sent per minute, was *caeteris paribus* inversely proportional to the specific resistance of the copper employed, and could not be increased by increasing the battery power. Consequently those who up to that time had looked on the systematic electric testing of copper wire as unnecessary had now become most strenuous in urging its regular adoption, so that at the present time no coil of copper wire was employed in a submarine cable which had not, being previously tested, proved itself to have less than the contract resistance.

A number of specimens of Japanese copper wire, of different gauges had recently been electrically tested in this way in Prof. Ayrton's laboratory, and the result had been that, while many samples had as much as twenty or thirty per cent more resistance than pure copper and therefore would be quite valueless for submarine cable or telegraph instruments, other samples had scarcely more resistance than if they had been composed of pure copper, in a few cases, indeed not even one per cent more. Consequently, as far as conduction was concerned, wire like the good samples would be of great practical value for telegraphic purposes. The price per pound of both bad and good samples was practically the same, and less, or at any rate not more, than the wholesale price in England of commercial copper wire.

Mr. Gowland, F.C.S of the Imperial Mint, Osaka, said that in reply to the remarks of the last speaker respecting the variable electro-conductivity of Japan copper, exceedingly high numbers having been obtained in some cases and low numbers in others he would state briefly a few of the results to which he had been led by the chemical and physical examination and metallurgical treatment of about eight hundred tons of copper. The copper of Japan as a rule, when properly refined in a suitable furnace, was calculated to take a foremost place amongst the various kinds of commercial copper destined for electro-telegraphic or other purposes where special purity was essential. It was almost invariably free from the injurious metals antimony and arsenic as well as from phosphorus. Antimony he had never found excepting in traces, and arsenic when present rarely in larger quantities than ·03 per cent. In fact when the crude copper was carefully selected and subjected to the Welsh process of refining, the resulting metal should consist of almost pure copper with traces only of lead, iron and silver. The importance of the purity of copper and of its special freedom from antimony, arsenic and phosphorus had been exhaustively treated by Matthieson in a paper communicated by him to the Royal Society and afterwards published in their "Transactions." His results were obtained from experiments made upon impure, pure and alloyed, specimens of copper the composition of which he had previously determined by chemical analysis. These results were opposed to some experimental results obtained by Sir Wm. Thomson, not however because the experiments of Sir W. Thomson were imperfectly conducted, but because alloys of inaccurate composition were supplied to him. The reasons, however, why Japanese copper wire, or copper in other forms, was so variable in its physical character were these:

> The Japanese were unable to produce uniformly by their refining process, a pure copper in the technical sense of the term. They could produce a copper as free from foreign metals as we could by our methods of refining, and thus far as pure, but they could not produce a copper which should uniformly contain just that proportion of cuprous oxide which was absolutely necessary to give maximum toughness, tenacity, ductility, and electro-conductivity, and without which uniform proportion the purest commercial copper was worthless for most purposes, a deficient quantity of cuprous oxide or an excess would equally condemn an otherwise pure commercial copper. The variations in the physical characters of Japanese refined copper, especially in the form of wire, he had found to be usually due to excess of cuprous oxide and not to the presence of foreign metals, the defects, however, produced by excess of this oxide could not be remedied by any treatment excepting that of remelting under proper conditions.

Japanese crude copper occasionally contained excess of iron, and also of lead, metals, however, which were removed by refining, and when required for the production of a copper to be used for special purposes as for alloying gold in minting, or for electro-telegraphy, it was advisable to make frequent careful analyses in selecting it.

For further notes on Japanese copper Mr. Gowland would refer those interested to the appendix of the Report of the Imperial Mint, Osaka, for the present year. The copper ores usually worked in Japan yielded from 2½ to 12 per cent. of copper, although richer specimens occurred in small quantities. The smelting process of the Japanese was one for which he had great respect, for although it was rude and yielding but a small out-turn compared with European methods, yet he had seen it economically conducted amidst difficulties and in localities where no other process would succeed. Strange as it might appear, the principles upon which it was conducted and the chemical reactions which took place were identical with those of the process followed in Wales at the present time.

The following minerals of iron were worthy of note in addition to those mentioned in the paper.

Magnetic Iron Sand.—A fine black sand consisting of more or less perfect octahedra of magnetic oxide of iron. It occurred largely in the province of Aki and was smelted there by native methods.

Magnetic pyrites occurred massive in large quantities in several parts of Setsu, in Omi and Yamato, and probably in many parts of Japan. It occurred in the interior of Yamato in veins 2 to 3 feet or more in thickness, mixed with copper pyrites, yielding often as much as 12 per cent of copper and being then worked as a copper ore. In Omi it occurred rather extensively, associated with a rich argentiferous galena and arsenical pyrites.

The old process of native steel manufacture by melting together wrought iron and cast-iron was curiously interesting, as an almost identical process had been patented and worked by a Sheffield firm during late years.

The process for manufacturing wrought iron described in the paper appeared to be a kind of lengthened puddling process and must be attended with great loss of iron.

Professor Ayrton then again rose and said that he had derived much pleasure from listening to Mr. Gowland's remark es pecially those connected with the impurities chemical analysis showed to exist in Japanese copper wire. Like him he had found the wire brittle, but he had to a great extent, got over this objection by insisting on the wire being carefully annealed before it was supplied to him. He was afraid Mr. Gowland had somewhat misunderstood what he (Prof. Ayrton) had said regarding the action taken by Sir W. Thomson. Prof: Thomson's conclusions regarding the connection existing between the speed of signalling and the resistance of the conductor of the cable were based on mathematical reasoning, and not, as Mr. Gowland appeared to think, on tests of alloys of copper submitted to him. Probably, after theoretical considerations had led Sir William to see the immense practical value to be derived from the systematic testing of the resistance of copper wire, he might have asked wire-drawers to furnish him with samples in order that he might see how good it was practically possible to get copper wire; but the testing of these samples could not in any way affect the results he had previously obtained mathematically and to which Prof. Ayrton had referred his previous remarks.

The Chairman (Sir Harry S. Parkes) then closed the discussion on this paper with a few observations on the subject generally, and after a few introductory remarks proceeded to read the 2nd Paper, by Captain St. John of H. M. S. *Sylvia*, entitled " Observations on the Bay of Sendai."

Mr. Brunton then made a few remarks to the effect that Ishi-no-maki had seemed to him on his visit there a short time ago to be a tolerably clean and well-to-do town. The bar across the river mouth, however, on which there is not more than 2 or 3 feet of water is a great obstruction to the shipping importance of the place. There is no shelter for vessels lying off the mouth of the river and it is therefore quite unsuitable as a port. There is a harbour, however, to the Eastward of Ishi-no-maki called Ai-kawa which offers good shelter to vessels being open only on a very small arc towards the south east; but as this harbour is surrounded by steep hills, it also is useless as a commercial port.

The meeting then terminated in the usual manner.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A meeting was held at the Rooms of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday afternoon, in pursuance of notice to that effect, for the purpose of taking into consideration the report of the Committee recently appointed to examine into the question of Municipal Government.

The meeting was thinly attended. At shortly after three o'clock the Chair was taken and proceedings opened by Mr. A. J. Wilkin.

Mr. Wilkin said: the Report of the Committee appointed on the 21st ultimo has already been placed before you through the medium of the newspapers; since that a further communication under date 7th instant has been received from the Chairman of the Board of Consuls. It will have been evident to us all that of late the number of policemen on duty both in the Settlement proper and on the Bluff, has been considerably increased, and we know that burglaries although still plentiful enough, are not so extraordinarily frequent as they were. Thus far then some results have been attained by the agitation. But, as already intimated, your Committee have felt that the state of things which called forth this agitation, has again pushed to the front the Municipal question, and they therefore have suggested to you that a consideration of this question at the present time would be opportune. Let me recall to your briefly what may be called the Municipal history of this settlement. For the first four or five years of its existence, the care of the streets, the police, and other civil matters were left to the Japanese authorities; but as time went on, and it appeared that the Japanese had no idea of the nature of foreign requirements, it was arranged that the Municipal care of the Settlement should be given up to a Committee of Foreign Land-renters, and that a fifth of the ground-rent should be assigned to this Committee to work with. This fifth amounted to $5,000 or $6,000. The income of the Committee was further supplemented by Licence fees. As there was some accumulation of back-rent, the Committee, or Municipal Council—as it was called,—succeeded in maintaining itself till 1867. It established and maintained a police force, and a road and sanitary Committee, got the butcheries removed from the settlement, and other useful measures adopted and generally did its modicum of work. But with such a limited income, it was utterly unable to deal with such radical operations as the improvement of the streets or the drainage of the settlements, and with the exhaustion of its accumulated fund, and the increasing requirements of the place it was fain to return to the hands of the Japanese the charge it had struggled with for the previous three years. Ineffectual attempts were made to obtain a larger proportion of the ground rents, or to arrange for a joint administration of Municipal affairs, but these having failed, the Japanese Government has from that till the present time had the sole charge. It is no secret that the Japanese complain that they are spending on the settlement more than they receive from ground-rents. This may or may not be a hardship to them: but the aspect in which it concerns us for the present, is how far this consideration will make them more willing to give up the Municipal Administration, and on favourable terms; and whether we cannot do the work for ourselves better and more cheaply, at the same time effecting a saving to the Japanese Government. It seems to me that it is easy to point on several cases in which we might reasonably expect to make a considerable improvement. I think we might made the police service much more effective, and even at a reduced expenditure. My own idea is that we do not so much want more men, as more efficient men. I would not thereby imply any reproach either to the authorities, o to the force itself. The Kenrei has, undoubtedly done his best to secure good men. But we know very well that this class of native is, constitutionally not of an especially wide-awake turn of mind, and moreover this kind of occupation and duty is novel to them. A policeman is not born but made. A blue coat, cap, and truncheon may confer abundant ability to arrest the unfortunate jin riki-sha man who does not light his lantern at dusk, but they cannot confer the alert watchfulness and alacrity which are indispensable to those who undertake the prevention and detection of crime. For these a course of patient training and education is necessary, and the most likely means of success would seem to be a staff of foreign Inspectors, themselves thorough policemen according to our western ideas. The thieves have got ahead of the police in their civilization: the former seem to have adopted the *modus operandi* of their confrères in Europe,—the latter still trust to the dignity of their calling. In no particular is there more urgent need of some reform than in the arrangements at *fires*. The disorganized effort, and the organized plunder at conflagrations are simply appalling. In the one case a central management is all that is needed to bring together a deal of hearty and vigorous but independent action:—in the other the simplest police measures, accompanied with sufficient authority, must effectually put an end to the wholesale robbery we too often witness. I would class the numerous obstructions and nuisances of the streets among the features in our presen system, which a Municipal Council might speedily deal with. The jinrikishas which infest the narrow parts of streets and block up corners are an intolerable annoyance as well as source of danger to those who have to drive about. Again building operations, projecting godown windows, &c. are ruthlessly and recklessly

allowed to impede or endanger pedestrians. Our roadways in many places are becoming worn out, and there is no sign of needed repairs. And there are various other such like matters which from day to day we notice. The want of some general organization, again, to carry through such measures as lighting the streets is severely felt. Now if I am right in these allegations I think a case of considerable weight is made out why we should have a Municipal Board mainly composed of our own choosing. We must, however, also consider the reverse side of the question. At present, we have some thing substantial to fall back upon. The Japanese have certain duties to perform towards this community, and they can be kept to them. If we give up this, we must be prepared to carry through what we undertake. The Japanese have done a good deal for us since 1869. The making of the roads and the laying of the drains under Mr. Brunton's superintendence, have been inestimable boons to the health and comfort of foreign residents. If this community should undertake the administration of such part of its own affairs as would appertain to the functions of a Municipal Board, it would undertake a grave responsibility, both financially and morally. Some amongst us would have to devote much time and attention to the proper working of the Municipal machinery: it could not go on alone. For the financial needs of the Board I should have little fear. The receipts from ground rents, but this be it remembered includes the Bluff and Settlement, have doubled since 1867, and with what might be deemed a fair apportionment, the Board would have an income of $50,000 per annum. Licence fees would naturally also go to the Municipal fund, and it would seem but fair that some portion of the fines levied for breaches of order, should also be handed to it. To provide, however, for any extraordinary expenditure such as for making roads, constructing bridges, &c., it should be an integral part of such scheme that the community should have the power in case of need of levying, say, wharfage dues, tolls on roads or bridge, taxes on carriages, and so forth. It is needless to add that it would be essential that the Municipal Board should be provided with a certain amount of delegated power subordinate to and in harmony with, the national right of all concerned. Your Committee have been of opinion that these results might be best attained and such a scheme would be most likely to a work harmoniously, if the Japanese authorities and the foreign Consuls were both represented upon the Board. Your Committee have, therefore, adopted some formal resolutions as a starting point,—and they now offer them to you—should you decide to act upon them, it will be necessary for some delegates to prepare a detailed scheme to carry to the Foreign Representatives. We have here, already, the results of much labour in former years in the shape of Land Regulations and Bye Laws, Budgets, and Reports, which, with some modification, are well adapted to the present case. In conclusion I need only remind you, that if this scheme is to be carried through it can only be by a deal of patient, persevering hard work. The assent of nearly a dozen different Powers has probably to be given beside the concurrence of the Japanese which alone is something formidable; and it must be a strong pull and a pull altogether if they are to believe that the community is in earnest.

Mr. Wilkin concluded by moving the following resolution :—

That an attempt be made to get the care of the affairs of the Foreign Settlement put under a Board composed of members chosen by the community, with certain other ex-officio members, to wit, the Governor of Kanagawa, and the Chairman of the Board of Consuls or any Consul chosen by this Board.

In reply to Mr. Winstanley, the Chairman stated that the estimated present annual cost of the Police was 20,000 *yen* and 10,000 *yen* were apportioned for roads. The budget of 1869 amounted to $18,000.

Mr. Winstanley wished to ask what sums the probable income and expenditure at present reached. He enquired because it was rumoured that the ground rents fell short of the charges.

The Chairman thought that the present expenditure might easily be curtailed.

Mr. Walsh said that if the income available from present sources should prove insufficient it would be necessary to raise the deficiency by taxation.

Mr. Marks enquired if the "New Road" was comprehendin the municipal scheme. He would also wish to know how far the acquiescence of the Consular Authorities might be depended on for the furtherance of such an extensive project as that contemplated by the report of the Committee.

The Chairman said that the original motive of their appointment was the desire to suppress the burglaries from which the settlement had been suffering, and the Committee saw no better procedure possible than the reorganisation of the municipal system. As regarded the Consuls he had little doubt that they would endeavour to further the desires of their nationals.

Mr. Hooper stated that in 1869 the Ministers of the various treaty powers acquiesced: He presumed that the foreign residents would not be bound by the decision of that meeting.

Mr. Dickins: The object of this meeting is simply to determine if we shall open negotiations with the Japanese, and, if so, upon what basis. There need be no apprehension felt as to the full acquiescence of the representatives of the Treaty Powers; the difficulty he thought lay in another direction. The question was rather as to how far the Japanese could be expected to conquer their repugnance to delegate authority over their own subjects to foreigners. The Police of the Municipality must necessarily be in a position to exercise control over Japanese subjects and this power would not perhaps be easily conceded. The presence of a formal *ex-officio* Japanese upon the board might possibly reconcile them to the course.

The motion was then put the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Hooper.

Mr. W. H. Smith said that anyone looking round their thinly-attended meeting room could scarcely fail to be struck with the declining interest felt in Public matters in Yokohama. An important question—that of lighting—had been under consideration for twelve months and was still unsettled. Let them postpone this question of municipal change for the present. People were, after all, well satisfied with things as they were and greater efficiency could only be obtained at greater cost. He would propose as an amendment that the subject under consideration should stand over until the scheme for lighting was carried through.

This was seconded by Mr. Milsom.

Mr. Rickerby suggested that if the proposal of the Committee were circulated in the Settlement many of those who were prevented from attending the Meeting would, he felt sure, be glad to support it.

Mr. Marks thought that compliance with Mr. Smith's suggestion would have the effect of producing the very indifference which he deprecated. Why postpone so rational a movement as that initiated by the suggestions of the Committee? He had very little doubt that the community would be glad to have a Municipal Government.

Mr. Winstanley said that in course of one month gas would be supplied to the streets. Mr. Takashimaya was responsible for the delay.

Mr Dickins thought that with a Municipality the gas question would have been settled long ago. The apathy with which municipal questions were treated arose from the absence of opportunity for the exercise of public feeling. The object of their meeting was to invite the expression of public opinion and there was no reason why the initiatory steps should not be taken.

Mr. Hooper mentioned that in 1869 the estimate for gas was $4,400. At present with double the population it was $6,000.

Mr. Dickins thought that the supply of Gas and Water might rest with the municipality as in England, and accruing profits be applied to the lessening of taxation.

Mr. Winstanley thought this would be found impracticable.

The original motion was then put to the meeting and carried by a majority.

The Chairman then put the second resolution which was as follows :—

That it is essential that said Board should receive from the Japanese Government not less than 80 per cent of the ground rents, with which to meet the Municipal expenses of the settlement; and it is further essential that such Board should have power to raise rates and taxes in case of need.

Mr. Marks seconded it.

Mr. Dickins moved that "not less than 80 per cent" should be substituted for the words "80 per cent." It would leave them untrammelled in future negotiations.

Mr. Marks enquired if the maintenance of the "New Road" were comprised in the obligations of the Japanese Municipality?

The Chairman said the road was maintained by a distinct convention.

Mr. Marks said its present condition was deplorably bad. It was quite neglected. He thought that some guarantee should be afforded that the road set apart for their recreation should be preserved for that purpose. Once a country road it was now a village with houses on either side, extremely objectionable to travel on by those who used vehicles.

Capt. Purvis presumed that a Foreign Municipality would not have very large powers of taxation.

The Chairman said that these powers would be limited. They would not be permitted to initiate any oppressive taxes.

The second resolution including Mr. Dickins' amendment was then put to the meeting and carried.

The Chairman said that it only remained for them to nominate a Committee to give effect to their decision.

Mr. Hooper proposed that the present Committee be requested to continue to officiate to this end. He thought they merited the warmest thanks of the foreign residents for the time they had devoted to the subject before them.

Mr. Dickins seconded the proposition.

Mr. Marks proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the meeting separated.

YOKOHAMA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

First Day.

Friday 30th October, 1874.

The Autumnal gathering of this Association commenced yesterday under the most auspicious circumstances. A warm day with cloudless sky, a bright sun, almost, if anything, too intense in its rays for the competitors though agreeable enough for the spectators, brought a large crowd together.

The handicapping which gave such general satisfaction before the Sports commenced brought the runners together in very close order, and the handicappers must be highly congratulated upon the skill and knowledge evinced in the difficult task they were called on to perform. The mile race proved a great surprise, for Mr. Longford with his long start of 180 yards made such use of his opportunity as to distance all competitors, and considering that it was not generally supposed he was training for this particular race appears now to have been let in rather lightly.

Amongst the old competitors we miss Mr. Abbott, and think somehow that Mr. Brent hardly runs up to his old form. Mr. Watson proved that the "old stagers" are still up to the mark by the way in which he won the "Hundred Yards" and "Hop, Step and Jump." Mr. J. J. Dare ran very strong in the "Ladies Purse" and won with a good deal to spare; he will doubtless show up to advantage in the "Winners' Stakes" if he is able to stay for the longer distance of 600 yards. In the "Half Mile Race" for men of the Army and Navy, Private Dunn went off very fast—evidently forcing the pace, but Tarring who ran quietly, proved an easy winner, Hewitt of the *Ringdove* being a good second.

In consequence of the heavy state of the ground, the "Hurdle Race" was run in heats and this will be decided to-day, doubtless A. Smith will prove to be the winner as he jumps very neatly. The "Ladies Purse" was a well contested event, but the scratch man could not get through sufficiently early, and, though he put on a magnificent spurt about 30 yards from homes Mr. J. J. Dare was too good for Mr. Brent who won this event in such splendid style last Autumn. Mrs. D'Iffanger presented the Purse, at the same time making a few congratulatory and appropriate remarks to the winner, who after replying in a bashful manner was carried off in triumph to the dressing room on the shoulders of his admiring friends. The race was run in very fair time considering the heavy condition of the ground. The time of the scratch man in the mile race was unusually good. The "High Jump" was very tame. The final Heat of 100 yards was a good race, being won by the scratch man, who will also take the 150 yards as Mr. Watson always gets off with a good quick start.

We trust that the weather may continue to hold up so as to enjoy another days sport so happily commenced.

1.—160 Yards Flat, Handicap.

First Heat.

E. F. Kilby, 5 yards 1
H. J. Snow, 6 „ 2
Time, 11¼ secs.

Second Heat.

A. T. Watson, 3 yards 1
J. J. Dare, 4 yards 2
Time, 11 secs.

Third Heat.

J. L. O. Eyton, 10 yards 1
W Brent, Scratch 2
Time, 11 secs.

2.—Drop Kick with Foot Ball.

G. Hamilton, ... 1
F G. Davidson, ... 2
Distance, 49 yards.

3.—150 Yards Flat Handicap.

First Heat.

A. T. Watson, 4 yards 1
W Brent, Scratch 2
Time, 15¼ secs.

Second Heat.

J J Dare, 6 yards 1
J. Y. Henderson, 8 yards 2

Third Heat.

J. L. O. Eyton, 13 yards 1
„ H. B. Henley, 18 yards 2
Time, 16 secs.

Fourth Heat

A. W. Dare, 6 yards 1
H. J Snow, 9 yards 2
Time, 15¾ secs

4.—Half Mile Flat

For non commissioned officers and men of the Army and Navy.

Tarring, ... 1
Hewett, ... 2
Hill, ... 3

5.—Hurdle Race, 120 Yards, over 10 Flights.

First Heat.

A. J. Smith, ... 1
A. H. Dare, ... 2
Time, 20 secs.

Second Heat.

A. T. Watson, ... 1
H. J. Snow, ... 2
Time, 23 secs.

6.—Putting the Shot, 16 lbs.

W. Jamieson, 29.6 1
A. J. Smith 27.9 2

7.—Ladies' Purse, 440 Yards Flat, Handicap.

J. J. Dare, 12 yds. 1
W. Brent, Scratch. 2
H. J. Snow, 35 yds. 3

8.—Hop, Step, and Jump.

A T. Watson, 37 ft. 1 1

9.—One Mile Flat, Handicap.

J. H. Longford, 180 yards 1
J. L. O. Eyton, 200 yards 2
A. H. Dare Scratch. 3

10.—High Jump.

A. H Dare, } ... ...Dead Heat.
A. J. Smith, }
J. J. Dare, ... 0

11.—Final Heat, 100 Yards Flat.

A T. Watson, 3 yards 1
J. L. O Eyton, 10 yards 2
E. F. Kilby, 5 yards 3
Times, 10¾ secs.

THE FADING FLOWER.

(From the Japanese.)

I wandered where the sweetness of summer made completeness,
And all the woods were blushing with the fiery glow of flowers,
When softest winds were blowing, and songful streams were flowing,
And sped alas! too swiftly the honey-laden hours.

I found amid the splendour a little bud so tender
I trembled with a thrill of joy I ne'er had known before;
Like one in a sad story who turns a page of glory,
Or ship-wrecked sailor nearing a smooth palm-planted shore.

With pride beyond all telling I bore it to my dwelling,
And placed it where it shone like star in night's engulphing gloom,
And there through years of gladness, or weariness and sadness,
It filled with Heaven's own lustre the lonely little room.

Now, though its leaves grow crisper, and cruel voices whisper
The flower has lost its beauty and groweth dim and old,
To me it beams as brightly as when first it quivered lightly
In morning's dewy freshness, when the distant hills were gold.

KAJIN.

Correspondence.

CONCRETE BUILDINGS *VERSUS* EARTHQUAKES.

To the Editor of the *Japan Weekly Mail*.

October 29th, 1874.

Sir,

I am gratified by your notice last week of some of the houses I have been building because personality is ignored and your small adverse criticism is correct. This notice, also, as it expresses opinions about modes of structure and materials gives me an opportunity to state my opinions on those important subjects; and, as your views coincide with those of most of the professional men here I will quote them and then give my own.

You say: "But we still hope that some man of originality and enterprize will see what may be done with concrete. Experience proves it to be far cheaper and stronger than brick-work, and, judging from acknowledged general principles, we think it would stand earthquakes at least as well, possibly better. And it is so vastly superior to our ordinary material of construction, in that it affords so little for fire to lay hold of. Look at any of the new buildings in course of erection in this town; what an amasing quantity of inflammable material they contain! All, or nearly all this might be avoided by the use of concrete."

To introduce concrete requires no man of originality; the thing is patent to every one connected with building in England—it may require a man of enterprize. Concrete may be better than brick or stone. You recommend, however, that concrete should be used without a framing of wood on account of fire. Now in Europe if a house take fire internally it is generally destroyed. Fire engines prevent the fire spreading, and that has been generally the case here when there has been a water supply. In a country not subject to Earthquakes your observations are all good; but I contend that to protect life in a country subject to Earthquakes a frame of flexible material is necessary. You object to wood; let it be of malleable iron! Some six or nine months ago I saw in the *Builder*, a London newspaper, a suggestion by an architect that, in the rebuilding of Antioch, the houses should have wooden frames in them so that the masonry should fall outwards and thus the lives of the inmates be preserved.

In all countries, except Japan builders seem to have considered the earth *firm set* and the forces to be resisted as exclusively *above* the ground. They have therefore grooved it and erected in the groves and thereform strong walls. Now whether these walls be of stone, brick or concrete they are rigid, heavy, have not the quality of resilience and if a strong horizontal earthquake wave were to strike their base their tops would recoil in the opposite direction and the roof would tumble in. This has been the case in Spain, Italy and America and Asia; yet, in despite of the fact, the system has been acted on from the dawn of historic times to the present and is now continued even in countries above mentioned subject to earthquakes. Be it understood that an earthquake wave moves with rapidity, is not statically or slowly applied and that its force is almighty. Though a wall were a mile thick and proportionately high the same result would arrive—down it would tumble! The principles of construction most suitable to avoid the ill effects of earthquakes are, I think, admirably evinced in Japanese Temples. It is temerity in me to say this when I know from your report of a lecture read at a meeting of the Asiatic Society of Japan on December 22nd 1873 "on Constructive Art in Japan" that the Lecturer asserted in reference to the Temples, "Thus with its unnecessary heavy roof and weak frame work it is a structure of all others the worst adapted to withstand a heavy earthquake shock." The position of men is no guarantee of the truth of their mere assertions, especially as regards scientific questions. However "*Nihil tam absurdum dici potest ut non dicatur a philosopho.* A Japanese Temple is not fixed in the earth, it is placed on it, slight columns of wood support a heavy roof (150 lbs. weight to the foot may be) the centre of gravity of the whole building is in the roof whose inertia must be very great, it overcomes the shaking of the slight flexible columns and maintains its tendency to fall in a straight line to the centre of the earth. If the columns had no flexibility and the roof were light a catastrophe would happen through the shock of an earthquake. My assertion! The Temples have withstood the shocks of earthquakes for above 300 years, while around them has been chaotic ruin; and, I think, if a Japanese temple had existed in Southern Italy at the time of the earthquake, 1857, it would have witnessed the destruction of the churches and palazzi built according to the rules of European constructive art and remained a monument testifying to the soundness of the principles on which it had been built.

If I intended to remain in Japan, and was blest with a wife and children, I would build a house on Japanese temple principles, not adhering to the form, and if concrete bricks were cheaper than sand and clay bricks or stone I would encase it with concrete and then when an earthquake came I would say to my wife and children "Stay where you are, my dears; if you run out, the stones and the bricks and the concrete will fall on you!"

It must be of the greatest importance to the people in countries subject to earthquakes and which are, occasionally, most destructive to have that style of building best calculated to avoid their effects; for not only is human life at stake but also property of great value. Is it possible to imagine the ruin that might have fallen on Yedo in 1856 had the houses and principal buildings been constructed of concrete, brick or stone? The loss of life would have been terrific, and the city scarcely have escaped annihilation!

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
SAM. PARRY.

Law Report.

H. B. M.'s PROVINCIAL COURT.

Before C. W. Goodwin, Esq., Assistant Judge.

October 29th, 1874.

John Upton *versus* W. Wylde.

This was a claim for $50 for week done. Defendant partly denied the claim.

Plaintiff, sworn, said he was a carpenter. Defendant sent for him, and asked him to do a job in Yedo; it was to hang bells in the British Legation. He was told by defendant's partner that he would get the same wages as he had received for a former job he had done for defendant; it was $3.50 per day. Defendant had given him on account 40 boos altogether, and then told him he could

not pay his wages. He did not complete the work, but worked 16½ days.

W. Wylde, sworn: He agreed to pay plaintiff at the rate of $3 per day. Plaintiff has worked 16½ days. The work is very badly done; it will all have to be taken down.

To plaintiff: You received $3 per day for the first job you did for me.

Plaintiff to Court: That is correct.

His Honor: How is it, then that you claim at the rate of $3.50 per day for this job?

Plaintiff to Court: I made a mistake, and thus my claim will be $39.50.

His Honor gave a verdict for plaintiff for $39.50, to be paid in 10 days.

Wm. H. Collins was charged by the police with wandering about the streets, and having no means of livelihood.

Prisoner admitted the charge.

Sent to jail for a week, and then to find security or be deported.

James Daly, a seaman of the *Laju*, was charged with being drunk and assaulting the police.

Prisoner pleaded guilty to being drunk only.

Fined $2, and ordered to be sent on board ship.

Charles Mardsten, sailmaker of the *Laju*, charged with being drunk and incapable. Pleaded guilty.

Fined $1 and costs.

B. Sweeney, sailor of the *Romeo*, charged with being drunk and incapable. Pleaded not guilty.

Case dismissed.—*Japan Herald.*

U. S. CONSULAR COURT.

Before Gen. T. B. Van Buren, Consul General.

October 27th, 1874.

Suzuke *against* The Pacific Mail Company.

The plaintiff claimed $6,616, the value of his junk together with her cargo, alleged to have been sunk by the defendants' steamer the *Oregonian* on the 15th February, 1873.

Mr. Dickins on behalf of the defendants took exception to the petition, which failed to specify that blame attached to his clients or their officers. According to the law the plaintiff could only claim for the value of the property lost in event of his being its owner, which he was not shown to be, nor was he responsible for it even according to Japanese law.

His Honour decided that the plaintiff should file a new petition.

October 28th, 1874.

W. H. Thompson & C. West were brought up on remand charged with arson at the Yedo Hotel, Tskidji.

Mr Marks was for the prosecution. The prisoner were defended by Mr Ness.

Mr Marks prayed the Court to grant an adjournment of the case as he had failed to obtain the attendance of several important witnesses.

Mr Ness did not object to an adjournment. At the same time he would urge the Court to accept lower bail from his clients, one of whom was already suffering from the confinement.

His Honour said he had not been made aware of Thompson's indisposition or he would have ordered him to receive medical attendance. (His Honour then proceeded to the appointment of assessors to assist in trying the case, and the names of Messrs. Charles Drake and W. L. Clark, were drawn from the box. Notices of attendance were served upon these gentlemen). Referring to the subject of bail, His Honour said that he did not wish to make the amount prohibitory and would reduce it in each case to $4,000, adjourning the trial to the 4th instant, at 10 o'clock.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL MINT.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1874.

To His Excellency Sangi Okuma Shigenobu,
Minister of Finance.

Your Excellency, I have the honour to submit the Third Annual Report on the Mint, for the information of His Imperial Majesty's Government.

To the Commissioner of the Mint, the officer who is responsible for all bullion deposited in the Mint, and who is also the chief of the bullion and accountant's department, I am indebted for the following information relative to the receipt of bullion:—

Amount of Gold of Standard Fineness Imported into the Imperial Mint during the Year,

Imported by.	Ounces Troy, at 900 Standard.	
Japanese	164,327	79
Chinese	59,366	57
Other foreigners	17,345	53
Imperial Government	215,954	82
Total for 1873-74	456,994	71
Total for previous year	1,310,296	31
Decrease, 1873-74	853,301	60

Description of Gold Bullion Imported from the Public during the Year.

Description.	Ounces Troy.	
Gold bars of unknown fineness	151 783	50
Gold leaf " "	19,476	17
Gold bars of known fineness	1,153	88
San Francisco bars	51,533	16
Chinese bars	588	90
Australian bars	274	26
English sovereign	431	40
Other foreign coins	342	47
	225,583	07

Amount of Silver of Standard Fineness Imported during the Year.

Imported by.	Ounces Troy, at 900 Standard.	
Japanese	306,330	20
Chinese	64,271	84
Other foreigners	115,964	76
Imperial Government	1,724,154	68
Total for 1873-74	2,300,721	48
Total for previous year	2,432,374	91
Decrease, 1873-74	131,654	43

Description of Silver Bullion Imported from the Public during the Year.

Descriptions.	Ounces Troy.	
Silver bars of unknown fineness	504 008	29
" known fineness	38,007	88
United States bars	6,171	05
San Francisco bars	6,909	40
	555,096	12

Mr Endo, late Commissioner of the Mint, having been appointed to the office of Okura Daijio at Yedo, is to be replaced by Mr. Ishikal.

In the Appendix will be found a list of the officials belonging to the Commissioner's department.

The Oriental Bank Corporation continue in the position of foreign bankers and agents of the Government, and now the currency of Japan is becoming more fully recognised abroad, the influence and advantage of this connection are rapidly increasing in importance.

In the year ending 31st July, 1874, the following coins have been struck and passed for issue by the Directer, as shewn by the bullion office returns:—

Denomination.	Number.	Value.
Gold 20 Yen	None.	None.
10 Yen	"	"
5 Yen	1,724,158	8,620,801
2 Yen	156,080	312,160
1 Yen	438,811	487,811
	2,319,049	9,371,772
Silver 1 Yen	724,107	724,107
50 Sen	850,480	425,241
20 Sen	4,020,159	804,033
10 Sen	11,926 268	1,192,626
5 Sen	7,011,515	350,577
	24,532,529	3,496,584
Copper 2 Sen	2,334,551	46,691
1 Sen	17,951,806	179,518
½ Sen	10,844,740	54,223
1 Rin	4,881,630	4,881
	36,012,727	285,313
Grand Total	62,864,305	13,153,669

The total number of pieces passed for issue was 62,864,305, and the real or nominal value $13,153,669, showing an increase on the previous year of 36,713,099 in the number of coins, and a decrease in value of $16,001,019.

There is a marked falling off in the coinage of gold, which was to be expected, for not only has the rate of exchange ruled against the advantage of coining gold, but the total amount in circulation may

be considered equal to about $1·50 per head of the entire population of the country, and it is scarcely probable any large increase will be necessary.

On the 17th March last the Government issued the authorisation for the coinage of a new silver One Yen piece of improved design, the weight to be 416 grains troy and the fineness 900, with the value clearly indicated thereon for the guidance of Foreigners as well as Japanese. A considerable number of these coins have gone into circulation.

The Government of the Straits Settlements recognised the new coin as a legal tender, and it was also accepted at other places on the coast of China. But although the Japanese silver yen as then proposed was the precise equivalent of the Hongkong dollar, the application to His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong for the Japanese yen to be proclaimed in that colony as a legal tender was, at the instance of the Chamber of Commerce, refused. Strange to say, however, the Canton Government immediately proclaimed the coins for acceptance.

The new silver yen has been, so far, well received, but serious objections were raised as to the weight of 416 grains whilst the trade dollar of America weighed 420 grains.

The Government have it under consideration how far it may be desirable to assimilate the weight of the Japanese yen with the American trade dollar.

The same difficulty presents itself as appears to have been felt in the United States. The unit of value is the gold dollar in one case and the gold yen in the other, and each country had previously a silver coin of the same nominal value. The "Trade Dollar" of the United States was authorised by the Coinage Act of February 12th, 1873, and the addition to the designation was doubtless to distinguish it clearly from the previous silver dollar of 412½ grains in weight; further, it is designed expressly for export and has no fixed value as compared with gold. It is in no proper sense a monetary standard or unit of account, and is not included or referred to when the silver coins for home use are spoken of."*

From similar reasons, the Japanese Government may deem it necessary to increase the weight of the silver coin intended solely for trade purposes, amongst those who may find it inconvenient to adopt the gold currency of Japan. The designation, therefore, would no longer be a "Yen," but as the weight and fineness in every respect equal the "Trade Dollar," the same term may be adopted, thereby marking distinctly the increased value over the so-called silver or gold "Yen" I have recommended that the legal deviation in weight should be one grain only in each direction, and the seignorage or minting charge will probably be reduced to 1½ per cent.

The coinage of silver has been chiefly confined to the smaller denominations of subsidiary pieces, which continue to be in demand, and the silver coins already in circulation being equal only to about 41 cents per head of the population, a considerable increase may be looked for.†

The coinage of copper commenced in December last, and has steadily progressed. It has now reached some 36 million pieces; to replace, however, the present copper coinage of the country, will require many years for the required amount, and increased coining power will be necessary to meet this demand.

On the 4th of September, 1873, the Vice-Minster of Finance and other officials assembled at the Mint for the purpose of testing the coinage of the year 1872-73 and the result of Mr. Dillon's assays of the coins selected, with the weight of such pieces and others, appeared in the Appendix of the Report for last year (see page 23). As therein stated, at the special desire of the Vice-Minister of Finance, portions of each coin assayed, also pieces from the ingots, were enclosed in 17 sealed paskets and sent to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, with a view to moving their Lordships to permit test assays to be made at the Royal Mint, London. Their Lordships granted the required permission, and on the 17th January last, a letter was received from the Honourable C. W. Fremantle, the Master of the Royal Mint (which will be found in the Appendix), enclosing the highly satisfactory report of W. Chandler Roberts, Esq., chemist and assayer of the Royal Mint. Attention may be called to the very great accuracy of the results; the efficiency of the assay office in this Mint is thus thoroughly established, and calculated to increase largely the confidence, already acknowledged, in the coinage of this country.

The following is the list of the European officers belonging to the Director's of department:—

Mr. Ed. Dillon, B.A., Assayer.
Mr. Wm. Gowland, Assoc. R.S.M., Chemist and Metallurgist.
Mr. G. W. Hunter Assayer of Premelted Silver, &c.
Mr. Ed. Atkin. Superintendent of Gold and Silver Melting.
Mr. Herbert Wheeler, Director's Secretary.
Mr. Henry Sheard, Die Engraver.
Mr. Ed. Wyon, Foreman Coining Department.
Mr. Robt. MacLagan, Engineer, Foreman of Artificers.
Mr. N. Mancini, Foreman Rolling Room.
Mr. T. Howlett, Assistant Foreman Coining Department.
Mr. Robt. Smith, Engineer, Foreman Copper Rolling Mill, &c.
Mr. Roland Finch, F.C.S., Foreman of Sulphuric Acid Works.

It became necessary for Mr. Hackett to return to England in March last, when Mr. Robert Smith succeeded him.

Recently Mr. William Smith, the late superintendent of the weighing room and balances, retired from the service, in consequence of urgent private affairs requiring his presence in England. As a temporary arrangement Mr. MacLagan will take charge of all balances throughout the Mint, and M. Wheeler will be responsible for the accurate weight of the coins.

In the Director's department are likewise included the following Japanese officials and operatives:—

Mr. Ohno, Foreman of Coppersmiths and Balance Makers.
Thirty-five assistant foremen and cadets.
Three hundred and thirty-one operatives.
Total in Executive department..... 380

Referring to the various departments of the Mint:—

No change has occurred since last report in the assay office, where the business continues to be conducted with the greatest care and ability.

In the Appendix will be found copies of documents especially referring to this department, also memoranda from Messrs. Dillon and Hunter, relative to some of the details of the assays during the past year. The facts referred to by Mr. Dillon as to the variations between the centre and edge of the same strip of silver are especially worthy of attention, proving the necessity for extreme caution when reporting on the standard of large coins. To this variation may be attributed the divergence which is sometimes met with in the assay reports of pieces so large as the dollars of various denominations.

In the numerous demands which it has been necessary to make on the chemical and metallurgical department the anticipated advantages from this important addition to the Mint have been fully realised, as is shown in the memoranda of Mr. Gowland, which will be found in the Appendix.

The following weight of gold and silver bullion have been melted into bars:—

Denomination.	Weight. Ounces.	Parts.	Operative Loss per Mille. Parts.
Gold	1,073,667	59	·06
Silver	1,786,686	89	1·00

GOLD AND SILVER PREMELTED.

Denomination.	Weight. Ounces.	Parts.	Loss per Mille Parts.
Gold	203,139	65	·43
Silver	1,512,863	65	2·80

The excessive loss on premelted silver results from the impurities in some of the bullion sent to the Mint.

The Gold melting room contains 12 air furnaces and the silver melting room 25 air furnaces of the ordinary construction.

Against the total operative losses a large quantity of crucible dust, &c., has accumulated at the Mint, waiting for some period of less pressure to be so dealt with as to reclaim the gold and silver. It is calculated that some $25,000 may be looked for from this material when Mr. Gowland can undertake the operation.

The rolling department continues to work satisfactorily. Including the copper rolling room, it contains in all 6 pairs of 14 in. rolls, 4 pairs of 11 in. rolls. 2 pairs of Krupp's finishing rolls, 8 hand-feeding cutting-out presses and 4 self-acting presses, 2 drag benches, and other appliances.

The weighing room now contains ten automaton balances capable of weighing accurately 100,000 coins per diem. Four of these balances, ordered some time since, remain undelivered.

Some difficulty presented itself from the want of experience and attention on the part of the workmen in the annealing room; blanks,

* See the Report of the Honourable H. R. Linderman Director of the United States Mint, for the year ending June 30th, 1873, pp. 22 and 23.

† This only applies to new issues from the Mint—there is besides a large amount of silver in circulation of the old currency.

from loss of alloy, were lowered slightly in weight, but raised in fineness, consequently all gold pieces and silver dollars will in future be weighed not on'y as blanks but after coinage also.

The silver dollars have been purposely weighed above the the standerd weight rather than below; in fact making the true weight the lowest point of deviation, which will account for these pieces being $1 82 per thousand on the average heavier than the standard weight.

The deviation on the whole coinage struck at the Mint during the current year is as follows:—

Total deviation per $1,000 on	5 yen	—	—	—	0.0008
,, ,, ,,	2 yen	—	—	—	0.0427
,, ,, ,,	1 yen	—	—	—	0 054
,, ,, ,,	on silver yen	—	—	—	1.82
,, ,, ,,	50 sen	—	—	—	0 0035
,, ,, ,,	20 sen	—	—	—	0.0065
,, ,, ,,	10 sen	—	—	—	0 063
,, ,, ,,	5 sen	—	—	—	0 085

The 2 and 1 yen gold pieces, hitherto chiefly weighed by hand, will be, by the aid of additional automaton balances, also weighed on these machines; but it is found in practice exceedingly difficult to produce this coinage within the present very limited working remedy.

Considerable vibration has lately been perceptible in the floor of the weighing room; during the vacation the present wooden floor will be removed and an iron one laid down on concrete, which will doubtless correct the defect.

In the coining department there are now ten "Uhlorn" and two "Thonnelier" presses, with six "Watt's" presses in the copper coining room, in which are also at work three others constructed at the Mint—twenty-one in all. The "Watt's" machines have been placed in thorough repair, and are now producing good coins.

Considerable improvement has taken place in the coinage; results are now very satisfactory.

The year has passed without any accident to the machinery, and the engines have worked with the greatest regularity; the punctuality of the commencement and continuance of the work during the appointed hours has been most marked. It will of course be necessary at the annual vacation to thoroughly examine every part of the machinery and replace worn parts wherever required.

Several additions to the machinery have been constructed in this department, viz:—Three coining presses completed, and at work, two nearly finished and three more considerably advanced; one large self-acting blank press has been erected and found to work efficiently, also a blank reducing machine, a most perfect automaton set of balances for weighing four dollar-blanks at each revolution, added to other smaller machines, and the very considerable item of renewals of appliances for the copper refinery, &c, afford substantial proof of the state of this department.

The number of dies produced during the year is as follows:—

For gold coins	221
For silver coins	1,140
For copper coins...	2,792
	4,153

Total dies worn out:—

For gold and silver coins.....	1,078
For copper coins	1,738
	2,816

The dies are greatly improved, and the present mode of polishing gives far better results.

New matrices were engraved for the silver yen and other coins.

In addition to the above, marks, brands, stamps, &c, have been executed for the weights and measures department at Tokio, amounting in value to some $5,000, which cannot be classed as Mint work

The Mint buildings are in good order, with the exception of a settlement in the external wall at either end of the main building and some defects in the roof, which will necessitate some modifications and repairs. The timber used in the construction of the officials' residences is rapidly decaying, and considerable repairs will be necessary ere long.

The barracks built some three years ago for the mint guard are in such a dilapidated state, that new buildings on a more substantial scale are being erected.

Beyond the Mint and Government properties, no improvement in the drainage of the district has been effected. In order to improve the drainage from some of the residences of the Mint employés, it will be necessary to raise the earth some 4 to 5 feet.

About 133 tons of Japanese copper have been refined during the year.

There is a large surplus stock of acid on hand, for which a very inadequate demand appears to exist in this country; moreover there is the usual want of confidence operating against most new undertakings to be overcome.

The introduction to a large extent of arts and manufactures into the land of cheap labour should be encouraged by every available means. It has been truly remarked elsewhere that "the commercial prosperity of a country may be judged of by the amount of acid which it consumes." There is certainly considerable scope for improvement in this respect in Japan.

Nitric acid can be supplied from these works.

The operations in gold and silver refining are carried on under the conduct of Mr Kusi.

Mr Miller's chlorine gas apparatus has only been used to a small extent experimentally.

The prospective increase in the consumption of gas has rendered some extensions necessary at the works, and a main will be laid along the entire front of the Mint premises, to convey gas to the new barracks, the entrance gates and road.

The Mint was closed from the 1st October to 15th November, when the examination of, and repairs necessary to, the machinery, &c., were effected, and on the 2nd December coinage was again resumed. It is now arranged that the Mint (without further notice than that already given) will be closed to the public for the reception of bullion from the 1st September to the 15th November in each year, thus affording to the officials the required relaxation for about six weeks annually.

During the past year the visitors to the Mint have been as follows:—

Japanese.....	19,516
Foreigners	214

Cost of Mint.

From the Commissioner's accounts, it appears the total cost of the Mint establishment, from the commencement of the works in 1868 to 31st July, 1874, amounts to $1,960,075.00.

This sum includes the original Mint buildings, the additions and enlargements for coinage of copper, the bullion offices, residences for officials and workmen's barracks, gas works, coke ovens, store and coal sheds—in fact, all buildings and appliances of whatever kind—machinery imported and manufactured, stores from Europe and Japan, coals, &c, as well as all salaries, wages and every contingent expense. The appropriation of portions of this sum to capital account and current expenditure presents the usual difficulties—large additions to the machinery having been constructed on the premises, which, with endless other appliances, are, in the accounts referred to, included in current expenditure.

The following division does not accord exactly with the accountant's arrangement, but I consider it a fair approximation of the total under the two headings, viz:

Capital account.....Yen	1,500,000,00.
Current expenditure to 31st July, 1874.	460,075.00
*Yen	1,960,075 00

For this outlay of $1,500,000, the Government possesses a most efficiently appointed Mint, complete in itself, and capable of producing 300,000 to 400,000 coins of mixed denominations, or 100,000 dollars, per diem.

Some estimate may be formed of the extent and capacity of the establishment by the reference to a statement in the Appendix, shewing the superficial area of the principal departments. Of the imported stores included in current expenditure, there may be sufficient in stock to supply the requirements of the coming year.

The Gross Earnings or Receipts of the Mint.

The gross receipts of the Mint, from the commencement of the coinage in 1871 to July 31st, 1874, are as follows:—

Gold.

Seignorage, premelting and assay fees.....Yen 475,636.00

Silver.

Seignorage, premelting and assay fees and profit on subsidiary coins.....Yen 1,543,141.00

Copper.

Estimated gross profits on copper coinage.....Yen 140,000.00

Yen 2,158,777.00

Estimated Annual Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for the ensuing year, including salaries, wages, stores, coals, &c., may be taken as follows:—

* The cost of sulphuric acid works is not included in these figures.

DIRECTOR'S DEPARMENT.

	Yen.
Pay of European officials, 36 Japanese sub officials and cadets, and 331 operatives	102,540.00
Probable value of stores, coals, crucibles, stationery &c., &c.	51,000.00

COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTMENT.

Pay of 16 officials and 108 sub-officials and servants.....	62,000.00
Total, Yen	215,540.00

The above figures are of course subject to some variation, as much will depend on the actual operations of the Mint, and as the employes become more thoroughly acquainted with the duties, superfluous and indifferent men may be dispensed with and the expenses decreased.

With reference to the expenses of the Director's department, it must be borne in mind that the great distance from supplies and the necessity for the means being at hand to replace worn out apparatus or injured machinery, render many adjuncts imperative, which would not be required elsewhere. Not only are the engineer's workshops, smithy, &c., on a larger scale, but a foundry had to be erected.

Copper, which in any other Mint would be received in a state suitable for coinage, has here to be refined. The production of coke, gas and other requirements tends to swell the number of the Mint operatives. Again, attention should be directed to the large number of coins produced, for this is the chief test to enable a fair estimate to be formed as to the capabilities of a Mint. The value of the out-turn is no indication of the labour and attendant expenditure, as the trouble and cost of striking a copper rin (1,000 pieces being equal to one yen), is nearly the same as would be the case in producing a gold coin of similar dimensions. It will be found that the expenditure compares favourably with any similar establishment where a like out-turn in number of coins is produced.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,
T. W. KINDER,
Director of the Imperial Mint.
Master of Her Majesty's late Mint, Hongkong.

Osaka (Japan,) 18th August, 1874.

(To be concluded in our next.)

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

Oct. 27, *Courier*, Russian steamer, Lemascheffsky, 495, from Hakodate, October 23rd, General, to Walsh, Hall & Co.

Oct. 28, *Great Republic*, American steamer, Howard, 4,354, from San Francisco, October 3rd, Mails and General, to P. M. S. S. Co.

Oct. 30, *Progress*, German schooner, Molkenbuhr, 320, from Hamburg, May 23rd, General, to Gutschow & Co.

Oct. 30, *Jessica*, British barque, Congdon, 550, from Hiogo, October 24th, Tea, to Smith, Baker & Co.

DEPARTURES.

Oct. 27, *Tanais*, French steamer, Reynier, 1,008, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by Messageries Maritimes.

Oct. 27, *Delphin*, German 3-masted schooner, Lilienthal, 246, for Hakodate, Ballast, despatched by Captain.

Oct. 28, *Pride of the Thames*, British barque, Brown, 379, for Nagasaki, Ballast, despatched by E C Kirby & Co.

Oct. 29, *Costa Rica*, American steamer, Conner, for Shanghai and ports, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

Oct. 29, *Great Republic*, American steamer, Howard, 4,354, for Hongkong, Mails and General, despatched by P. M. S. S. Co.

Oct. 30, *Hokaido*, British schooner, Scherell, 104, for Shanghai, Coal and General, despatched by Seabrook.

Oct 30, *Askold*, Russian corvette, Admiral Brumeranstoff, 2,300, for Nagasaki.

Oct. 30, *Vsadnick*, Russian corvette, Captain Novosilsky, 1,069, for Nagasaki.

Oct 31, *John Milton*, British ship, Murphy, 618, for Kobe, General, despatched by Simon, Evers & Co.

PASSENGERS.

Per French steamer *Tanais*, for Hongkong.—M. M. Gibson, Charters Ingram, Scazzola, Riccardi, Chiapello, Suzukin, Ughes, Bertone Bastiani, Christophe Nicolas, Butta, Cazet, Hyde, Labalme, Argenson, Anthony and child, Michel, and 11 seamen.

Per American steamer *Great Republic*, from San Francisco.—Messrs. Herbert Praid, Wm. Philips, Sir Bruce Seaton, A. A. Shand Chas. F. Ornsd, W. Vander Tak, Julius Adrian, Miss D. E. Schoomaker, J. F. Campbell, L. J. Farr, wife and 3 chil., Saichi Komuro, Mrs Van Buren, son and daughter, Miss Cargill, Miss E. Cargill, sister and nurse, Paul Currie, Mrs. Anthony Brower, W. Keen, U S N., S. G. Baine. J. D. Walker, J. H. Chassman, U.S.N., Z. Yoshie, and S. Y. Kalata. For Hongkong.—H. F. Vienstra, Miss Miss G. L. Curtis, Ho Sim, wife and servant, D. W. Chandler and wife, Miss Trask, and S. A Philips. For Shanghai.—Rev. J. S. Roberts, wife and 2 children, P. Karduff, Mrs S. P. Burchett and 2 children, Miss Lottie Mason. Rev. W. Churchill and wife, and Rev. Horace Jenkins. For Nagasaki.—H. A. Howe, Jr. and wife. Steerage.—2 Japanese, 7 Europeans, and 675 Chinese.

Per P. M. S S. *Costa Rica*, for Shanghai:—Mr. R. V. Boyle, Mrs. S. P. Burchett and children, Rev. D. W. Chandler and wife, Mrs. H. M. Bellows, Miss M. Fowler, Rev. Mr. Churchill and wife, Mr. Lintedal, Rev J. Roberts, wife, and two children, Mr. W. Scott and wife, Miss Trask, E. C. Davis, S. McLure, Rev. H. Jenkins, H. A. Howe and wife, Capt. A. Tillet, Messrs. J. H. Chasmer, Ansel Keen, F. R. Wetmore, J. MacLagan, Gwerini, Littledale, Miss Lottie Mason, 2 Japanese, and 50 in the steerage.

CARGOES.

Per French steamer *Tanais*, for Hongkong:—
Silk ... ... 475 bales.
Silk-worms' eggs ... ... 1,914 cases.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Behar* and S S. *Naruta* were out yesterday on a trial trip, returning to the anchorage in the evening

The American steamer *Great Republic* reports: met the P. M. S. S. *Colorado* bound in when about 2 hours out from San Francisco had heavy northwest well for eight days ship keeping to the southward had fine variable winds throughout the entire passage.

The British barque *Jessica* reports: experienced strong N.E. gales with heavy rain on Tuesday and Wednesday; on Thursday had strong westerly gales which continued through the night.

The German schooner *Progress* reports: experienced fair winds down English Channel, and to the Equator to which had a run of 31 days, thence to the East Indian Islands with variable weather. Came through Maccassar Straits on the way to Japan had a succession of calms, so that the passage from there to Yokohama occupied 60 days.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

Destination.	*Name.*	*Agents.*	*Despatch.*
Hongkong	Orissa	P. & O. Co	3 Nov.
Hongkong	Volga	M. M. Co	10 instant
New York	New Republic...	Mourilyan, Heimann & Co.	instant
Kobe	John Milton ...	Simon, Evers & Co ...	instant
New York	Jessica	Smith, Baker & Co ...	instant
Hiogo	Progress	Gütschow & Co	instant

MERCHANT SHIPPING IN PORT.

STEAMERS.

			Destination.
Behar...		Edmond	
Courier		Lemascheffsky ...	
Kiushiu		Ellis	
Naruto		DuBois	
Orissa		Pockley...	Hongkong
Volga		Nomdedeu	Hongkong
Washi		Hescroff	

SAILING SHIPS.

				Destination.
Ariel...	358	Mulsen		
Jessica	550	Congdon		New York
Laju	560	Scott		
Menam	468	Osmont		
Myrtle	35	Poley		
New Republic	580	Reynolds		New York
Novelty	376	Limmex...		
Parmenio	369	Abbot		
Progress	320	Molkenbuhr... ...		Hiogo
Romeo	610	Thomas...		
Snow-drop	95	Brodhurst		
Victor	654	Hastorf...		

VESSELS OF WAR IN HARBOUR.

H. B M.'s gun-boat	Ringdove ...	Captain Singleton
U. S. corvette ...	Lackawanna ...	Captain McCauley
German frigate ...	Elizabeth ...	Captain Livonius
Italian corvette ...	Vettor Pisani ...	Captain Alberto de Negri
Russian corvette ...	Guidamack ...	Captain Tirtoff
French Iron-clad...	Montcalm	Captain Lespès

VESSELS EXPECTED.

SAILED.

FOR CHINA PORTS, WITH GOODS FOR JAPAN.
FROM LONDON via SHANGHAI.—"Galley of Lorne."
FROM LIVERPOOL.—

FOR JAPAN DIRECT.

FROM LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA.— "F. C. Clarke"; "Braemar Castle" str.
FROM LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIOGO. — "Suffolk;" "Denbighshire;" "Laurel;" "Carnarvonshire;" "Penrith."
FROM LIVERPOOL, FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIOGO.—"Montego."
FROM GLASGOW.—
FROM SHIELDS.—"Ariantes"
FROM CARDIFF.—"Earl of Dufferin;" "Thomas Hilyard."
FROM NEW YORK.—"Chas. C. Leary"; "Chattanooga."
FROM SWANSEA.—"Caspar."
FROM HAMBURG.—"La Plata."

LOADING.

AT LIVERPOOL FOR CHINA PORTS.—"Nestor" str.; "Glancus;" "Achilles;", "Deucalion."
AT LONDON Do. —"Glencarn" str; "Ly-ee-moon."
AT LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA, HIOGO &c —"Penedo" str.
AT LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIOGO.—"Black Prince;" "Evelyn."
AT LONDON, FOR YOKOHAMA.—
AT LIVERPOOL, FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIOGO.—"Mora."
AT LIVERPOOL, FOR YOKOHAMA.—
AT HAMBURG FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIOGO.—"Mathilde."

CHURCH SERVICE.

English Church, ... 9 A.M. 11 A.M. 5.30 P.M.
American, at No. 38,..... 11 ,
French Church,.....8.30 „ 10 A.M.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Trains leave Shinbasi (Yedo) at the following hours:—

A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	NOON.		
7.0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12.0		
P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
1.15	2.30	3.45	5.0	6.15	7.30	10.0

Trains leave Yokohama at the following hours:—

A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	NOON.		
7.0	8.15	9.30	10.45	12.0		
P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
1.15	2.30	3.45	5.0	6.15	7.30	10.0

THE "JAPAN MAIL."

A Daily, Weekly and Fortnightly Journal.

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AGENTS OF THE PAPER.

LONDON..... G. Street, 30, Cornhill.
„ Bates, Hendy & Co., 4, Old Jewry.
NEW YORK..... A. Wind, 133, Nassau Street.
SAN FRANCISCO.... White & Bauer, 413, Washington Street.
HONGKONG..... Lane, Crawford & Co.
SHANGHAI..... Kelly & Co.
HIOGO & OZAKA... F. Walsh & Co.
NAGASAKI..... China & Japan Trading Co.

who are authorized to receive Subscriptions and Advertisements for these Papers.

NEXT MAIL DUE FROM

	Per	Date
HONGKONG AND EUROPE.....	M. M. Str.	Nov. 1st
AMERICA.....	P. M. S. S.	
HONGKONG AND EUROPE.....	P. & O. Str.	Nov. 3d.
SHANGHAI, HIOGO & NAGASAKI	P. M. S. S.	
HAKODATE.....	P. M. S. S.	

NEXT MAIL LEAVES FOR

	Per	Date
HONGKONG.....	P. M. S. S.	
HONGKONG AND EUROPE.....	M. M. Str.	Nov. 10th
HONGKONG AND EUROPE.....	P. & O. Str.	Nov. 3d.
SHANGHAI, HIOGO & NAGASAKI	P. M. S. S.	Nov. 5th
AMERICA.....	P. M. S. S.	Nov. 6th

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

LATITUDE. 35° 25′ 41″ North. LONGITUDE. 139° 39′ 0″ East.

OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 9 A.M. LOCAL TIME.

Day of Week.	Day of Month.		Barometer.	Attached Thermometer.	Hygrometer. Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Dew Point.	Elastic force of Vapour.	Humidity 0—1.	Wind. Direction.	Force in lbs. per sq. ft.	During past 24 hrs. Cloud. 0—10.	Max. in air.	Min. in air.	Mean in air.	Rain in Inches.	Ozone.
Sat.	Oct.	24	29.85	64.0	60.0	58.5	57.5	.474	.915	N. W.	.16	9	58.5	49.5	54.0	1.85	4.
Sun	„	25	30.04	63.5	62.5	60.5	59.3	.504	.908	Calm.	.00	1	67.5	48.0	57.2	.01	7.
Mon	„	26	30.04	63.0	62.5	59.3	56.5	.457	.837	N.	.59	7	63.5	51.5	57.5	.00	5.
Tues	„	27	30.16	59.0	55.0	49.5	49.5	.354	.818	N.	.80	10	65.0	51.0	58.0	.00	5.
Wed	„	28	30.14	57.5	52.0	49.0	46.2	.312	.808	N.N.E.	.52	10	51.5	45.5	48.5	.81	4.
Thurs	„	29	29.87	60.5	49.5	45.0	40.7	.255	.731	N.N.W.	.56	10	55.0	42.5	48.7	.39	7.
Fri	„	30	29.63	59.5	58.0	54.0	50.9	.373	.798	S.	.20	3	58.5	44.0	51.2	1.11	4.
Mean			29.96	61.0	57.0	53.6	51.5	.38	830		.40	7	59.5	47.5	53.5	.59	5.

CAMP, Yokohama, October 31st, 1874.

J. H. SANDWITH,—*Lieut.*,
R. M. L. I.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

IMPORTS.

Cotton Fabrics.—A week of comparative inactivity has succeeded the busy market of the preceding fortnight. Prices of *Shirtings* are, however, fairly maintained, and owing to the decreasing stocks a slight advance in rates has been obtainable in 7-lbs. weights. Transactions in other goods have been upon a slight basis, demand having apparently ceased.

Grey Shirtings:—			White Shirtings:—		
7 lbs.	38½ yds. 39 in. per pce.	$1.19 to $2 18	56 to 60 reed 40 yds. 35 in. nom per pce.	2.40 to	2 50
8 lbs.	38½ yds. 44 in. „ nom.	2.40 to 2 55	64 to 72 „ „ „	2 70 to	2.85
8 lbs. 4 to 8 lbs. 6	„ 39 in. „	2.37½ to 2.65	Turkey Reds 25 yds. 30 in. 2¼—3 lb. per lb.	0.85 to	0 95
9 lbs.	„ 44 in. „	2.99½ to 3.15	Black Velvets	9.00 to	9.75
Taffachelass Bingle		2 70 to 2.95	English Drills	3.20 to	3.40
			Canvas, Navy, Red Stripe	7.50 to	8.00

Cotton Yarns.—A better feeling is reported without, however, affecting prices which are barely maintained.

No. 16 to 24	per picul	33 50 to 38 50	No. 28 to 32 per picul	36 00 to 40 00
Reverse	nom.	38 00 to 38.50	„ 38 to 42 ...small stock nom. „	41.00 to 47 00

Woollen Fabrics.—The market for Woollens is decidedly quieter throughout, the Osaka market, the principal outlet for this description of goods, being very weak in consequence of the disquieting rumours of war with China. There is no decided demand for any article except *Blankets*, which have been bought on Government account at up to 52½ cents.

Plain Orleans	40—42 yds. 32 in.	5 90 to 8.10	Figured Mousseline de Laine	30 yds. 30 in.	0.28 to 0.32
Figured Orleans	29—30 yds. 31 in.	4 50 to 5.25	Multicolored „	30 yds. 30 in.	0 30 to 0.40
Italian Cloth	30 yds. 32 in.	0 25 to 0.36	Cloth, all wool plain or fancy	48 in. to 52 in.	1.00 to 1.10
Camlet Cords	29—30 yds. 32 in.	6.25 to 7.40	Presidents	54 in. to 56 in.	0.80 to 0 90
Camlets Asstd.	56—58 yds. 31 in.	18 50 to 19.00	Pilots	54 in. to 56 in.	0.55 to 0 65
Lastings Japan	22—30 yds. 32 in.	14 00 to 16.00	Union	54 in. to 56 in.	
Plain Mousseline de Laine	30 yds. 30 in.	0.19½ to 0.21	Blankets, scarlet & green 7 to 8 lbs.	per lb.	0.47½ to 0.52½

Iron and Metals.—Business continues dull, and as quotations are largely nominal we omit them.

Sugar.—The market continues strong. There are no arrivals from China.

Kerosene Oil.—There is greater firmness in quotations. No further arrivals have occurred.

Sugar:—Formosa in bag	per picul	5.10 to 5 20	China No. 4 Kook-fah	per picul	6.60 to 7 10
in Basket	„	4 90 to 5.00	„ No 5 Kong-fuw	„	5.80 to 6.50
China No. 1 Ping fah	„	8 30 to 8.50	„ No. 6 E-pak	„	5 40 to 5.60
„ No. 2 Chong-pak	„	7.80 to 8.10	Swatow	„	4 50 to 4 60
„ No. 3 Be-pak	„	7.00 to 7.60	Japan Rice	„	
			Kerosine Oil	„	3.40 to 3 50

EXPORTS.

Silk.—Since the 24th instant arrivals are 475 bales and settlements about 350 bales. The market is quieter, but prices remain unchanged.

Silkworm Eggs.—Arrivals during the past week have been trifling and the total supply to date, including stocks in Yedo, may be estimated at 1,700,000 cards, some 450,000 of which have been destroyed by fire. Total Settlements do not, we should think, exceed 900,000, apparently leaving in the market an unsold stock of 350,000 cards.

We have scarcely any change to report in prices. Annual Green and White are paid from $0.30 to $0.65 according to quality.

Total shipments to date are about 700,000 cards.

	Laid down and sold in London Ex. 6mos. at 4s. 2¾d. ₰ Lyons, 5.38.		*Laid down and sold in London Ex. 6mos. at 4s. 2¾d. ₰ Lyons, 5.38.*		
Hanks—					
Best (No. 1/2)	590 to 610	22s. 4d. to 23s. 1d. frs. 62 to 64	Medium (No. 2½)	520 to 540	19s. 10d. to 20s 7d. frs. 55 to 57
Good (No. 2)	560 to 580	21s. 3d. to 22s. 0d. frs. 59 to 61	Common No. 3	490 to 510	18s. 9d. to 19s. 6d. frs. 52 to 54

Tea.—Less anxiety to purchase has prevailed during the past week and settlements do not exceed piculs 1,100. Arrivals have also been on but a moderate scale, from which it appears that the tea-farmers are not prepared to submit to the reduced rates that the Yokohama dealers only feel justified in offering.

Advices from New York continue rather discouraging, but as we are now in direct telegraphic communication with that centre of the tea trade, the written instructions are often nullified by wire.

With the departure of the *Vancouver*, *Jessica* and *New Republic* we expect to report an export from Yokohama to date equalling at least our total Export for last season from this port.

Prices close rather quieter but no change can be reported.

Common	$27.00 to 29.00	Fine	$43.00 to $46 00
Good Common	31 00 to 34.00	Finest	48.00 to 51.00
Medium	35 00 to 38.00	Choice	55.00 upwards
Good Medium	39.00 to 41.00	Choicest	None.

EXCHANGE AND BULLION.

Exchange.—The business of the past week has been limited to small settlements of private paper at unaltered quotations.

Gold Yen.—Small lots have been placed at 409½ for duty payments, but close lower with little business doing.

Rates close as follows:—

On London, Bank, 6 Months'	4s. 2¼d.	On Hongkong Bank Bills on demand	¼ per cent discount.
„ „ Sight	4s. 1¼d. to ⅜	„ „ Private Bills 10 ds. sight	¼ „ „
„ „ Private, 6 months	4s. 2¼d.	„ San Francisco Bank Bills on demand	101
„ Paris, Bank Bills 6 months	5.28	30 days' sight Private	103
„ „ Private	5.33-4	„ New York Bank Bills on demand	101
„ Shanghai Bank Bills on demand	72½	30d. s. Private	103
„ „ Private Bills 10 days sight	73½	Gold Yen	410
		Kinsats	413½

INSURANCE.

The Scottish Imperial Insurance Company.

LONDON.—2, King William Street.
GLASGOW.—50, West George Street.

For Fire, Life and Annuities.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

REDUCED RATES of Life Premium for Assurance in Japan.

EDWARD FISCHER & Co.,
Agents.

Yokohama, September 11, 1874. 3ms.

Guardian Fire and Life Assurance Company.

LONDON

ESTABLISHED 1821.

Total Invested Funds.....£2,780,000
Total Annual Income.....£ 360,000

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents at Yokohama are prepared to Issue Polices AGAINST FIRE, on the usual Terms.

Concurrent Insurances require endorsement on the Policies of this Company only when specially called for by the Agents.

SMITH, BAKER & Co.

Yokohama, October 27, 1873.

The Phœnix Fire Insurance Company,

ESTABLISHED 1782.

The Manchester Fire Insurance Company,

ESTABLISHED 1824.

THE UNDERSIGNED are authorized to issue Policies for large amounts, on Buildings and Contents in the Foreign Settlement, or on the Bluff, at current rates of premium.

KINGDON, SCHWABE & Co.,
Agents, No. 89, Yokohama.

Yokohama, June 3, 1874. tf.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE Fire Insurance Company.

THE UNDERSIGNED having been appointed Agent to the above Company is prepared to issue Policies at Current Rates.

E. L. B. McMAHON.

Yokohama, July 13, 1874. 3ms.

INSURANCE.

The Lancashire Insurance Company.

CAPITAL

TWO MILLIONS STERLING.

One of the Four Offices of the "Highest Class":—vide, the complimentary remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer made in the House of Commons on 7th March, 1864 *(Times 8th March,* 1864*).*

CHIEF OFFICES.—Exchange Street, St. Anne's Square, Manchester,
And 10, Cornhill, London.
7, Water Street, Liverpool.
4, Hanover Street, Glasgow.
23, Cowgate, Dundee.

THE UNDERSIGNED having, by ample Power of Attorney, been appointed Agents for the above mentioned Company at this Port, are prepared to issue Policies of Insurance AGAINST FIRE at Current Rates.

HUDSON, MALCOLM & Co.

Yokohama, June 30, 1868.

The Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance Company.

ESTABLISHED 1843.

Capital, Florins 3,000,000, fully Subscribed

HEAD OFFICE, BATAVIA.

THE UNDERSIGNED having been appointed Agents for the above Office are prepared to accept Marine Risks at current rates.

HUDSON, MALCOLM & Co.,
Agents.

Yokohama, September 3, 1872.

North China Insurance Company.

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. WM. G. BAYNE has been appointed Agent at Yokohama, and is authorized to sign Policies of Insurance and generally transact the business of the above Company at that Port on and after the 1st January, 1873.

The Offices of the above Company have been opened on the Premises of Messrs. D. Sassoon Sons & Co, No. 75.

By order of the Court of Directors.

HERBERT S. MORRIS,
Secretary.

Shanghai, December 19, 1872.

London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company.

THE UNDERSIGNED having been appointed Agents for the above-named Company at this Port, are prepared to issue Polices of Insurance AGAINST FIRE at Current Rates.

GILMAN & Co.,
Agents.

Yokohama, February 27, 1874. 6ms.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

[TRANSLATION.]

NOTIFICATION.

NOTICE Boards written in Japanese, English and French, and indicating the limits beyond which Foreigners are not allowed to pass, have been posted at the River Ferries and other places in Tokio Fu forming said limits.

KANAGAWA KENCHO.

May 20, 1874. 6ms.

MISCELLANEOUS.